■ **ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1**
'Idol' after-party has 'scary'dancing, not singing says PDI man in Hollywood

■ **NEWS / A17**
Villar backs Erap request for house arrest in Greenhills

■ Sunday Magazine
Guyito hits the malls, touches hearts of young and old

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible] VIEWS

Sunday, May 28, 2006 ★★★ 15 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 169 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Pinoy Idol' organizers no-show at mall audition

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NAG-TAYLOR HICKS NA ANG BUHOK KO SA KAKAHINTAY!

THEY ARRIVED IN THEIR best clothes and with full makeup, hoping to become the first "Philippine Idol."

But the more than 200 people who showed up to

'PINOY'/ A6

Quake kills 3,000

200,000 homeless in Indonesian city

YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA—A powerful earthquake flattened buildings in central Indonesia early Saturday, killing more than 3,000 people and injuring thousands more in the country's worst disaster since the December 2004 tsunami.

The magnitude-6.2 quake struck at 5:54 a.m. near the ancient city of Yogyakarta as many people slept, causing death and damage in many nearby towns.

Thousands of families fled their homes in panic after the quake struck, many running for higher ground amid false rumors of a tsunami like the one that devastated the country.

Many could not escape in time and were buried under the rubble of collapsed buildings or struck by flying rocks and debris as the quake devastated towns and villages across the south of the island.

The roofs of homes caved in, and hotels and government buildings collapsed. Roads and bridges were destroyed, hindering efforts to get taxis and pickup trucks filled with the wounded to hospitals. Some phone lines also were cut.

The massive quake left about 200,000 people homeless, the Red Cross said.

Purkasih, an elderly women, pleaded with passers-by to help look for her older sister Duljiah, who was trapped in a collapsed kitchen.

"Elder sister, elder sister," Purkasih wept as a dozen young men, some with open wounds, dug at the rubble. Seven hours after the quake they pulled out her body.

"Even us, healthy men, could not see if we could run, because

QUAKE/ A8

RALLY AROUND THE FLAG as the nation celebrates today that which is the symbol of all that's best in the Filipino. REM ZAMORA

Forged in revolution, RP flag unites people

By Peter Jaynul V. Uckung
Senior History Researcher
National Historical Institute

COMMENTARY

THE FLAG SYMBOLIZES FREEdom and patriotism and nothing comes close to evoking patriotic sentiments when it flies high in the middle of a raging battlefield.

Forged in the furnace of revolutionary fervor, the Philippine flag integrates the history of resistance of a nation disenchanted with her experience of being oppressed, discriminated against, and abused. The very thought of having to relive such wretched captivity is so abhorrent to Filipinos that a waving flag in the midst of communal resentment will unite the people against a common foe.

Such a united, determined force, spurred on by the flag, is a juggernaut that can topple any oppressive government. This is undeniably true today.

During the early years of American rule, the authorities recognized the power of the flag to galvanize nationalistic sentiments that its display was prohibited. Later, when social circumstances indicated a more relaxed and trusting relation between Filipinos and Americans, the flag was permitted to fly again in 1919.

From then on, the Philippine flag flew alongside the Stars and Stripes, although most of the time, it flew under it.

It was a gay era then, an era of improved social life. There was no reason for the flag to stir up antagonism. Although there was social uneasiness in the countryside, majority of the ruled were contented.

It was when Japan invaded the Philippines in 1941 that the flag's true power unfolded.

Before Bataan, Filipinos tried hard to become professional soldiers, but American racial discrimination soon became apparent.

Pay was seldom equal. Equipment used by Filipino servicemen was glaringly disproportionate to that of the Americans.

The first Filipino graduate of West Point, Vicente Lim, was even called "Cannibal" by his American classmates, perhaps believing that the

FORGED/ A6

EDUCATION SPECIALIST Virginia Ganzon-Sturwold receives the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Bush at the celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at the White House on Friday. The Fil-Am and four other Asian Pacific immigrants are cited for "enriching America by their contributions."

Bush honors Fil-Am volunteer

By Blanche S. Rivera

SHE NOW WALKS WITH A cane, but on May 12, the 81-year-old Filipino-American walked as proud as anyone else at the White House.

On that day, Virginia Ganzon Sturwold, a retired education specialist, received from US President George W. Bush the President's Volunteer Service Award, the highest honor given by the White House to those who have contributed their time and talents to people in need.

A former professor at St. Joseph's College and Adamson University in the Philippines, Sturwold was recognized for her tutoring of third- and fourth-graders at the Francis Scott Key Elementary School in San Francisco, where she has lived for the past five years.

As a member of the Experience

BUSH/ A6

After 5 years, Sto. Tomas pines for new clime

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SHE HAS BEEN IN THE CABINET post she holds now for as long as President Macapagal-Arroyo has been head of state.

And now Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas may just possibly want a change of scenery—perhaps the view of the Makati skyline from the office of the chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines?

Several Palace sources said the President is seriously considering appointing Sto. Tomas as DBP chair after the labor secretary was heard to have sounded off about being drained by the rigors of holding the same job for the past five years and five months.

According to a Malacañang official, Ms Arroyo, who remains appreciative of Sto. Tomas' hard work and loyalty, has already started reviewing a list of four candidates for Sto. Tomas' replacement, including two Cabinet members who are eager to grab the labor portfolio.

The incumbent DBP chair, Antonino Alindogan Jr., was appointed only last March 15 to replace Vitaliano Nañagas II. A senior Palace official said Alindogan would most likely be transferred

AFTER/ A10

"I COULDN'T EVEN HELP MY WIFE" one of the men holding their dead, grieves at a funeral in the most devastated district in the ancient Indon city of Yogyakarta. AFP

RP couple convicted of enslaving 'TNT' maid

MILWAUKEE—A FEDERAL JURY found a wealthy suburban couple guilty last Friday of harboring a Filipino illegal immigrant and forcing her to work as their maid for 19 years.

Filipino domestic Irma Martinez testified during the eight-day trial that she felt like a prisoner in the home of Jefferson N. and Elnora Calimlim, who are legal residents of the United States but citizens of the Philippines.

The couple was found guilty of harboring an illegal immigrant for financial gain, conspiracy to harbor an illegal immigrant for financial gain, forced labor and attempted forced labor.

The Calimlims' eldest son, 31-year-old Jefferson M., was found guilty of harboring an illegal immigrant, one of three charges against him.

Martinez testified that she worked 16-hour days for minimal pay for the couple who are both physicians.

The Calimlims face prison, fines, deportation and forfeiture of their $1.2 million (P63.36 million) home when they are sentenced on Sept. 15. Their US-born son also faces prison and fines.

In closing arguments last Thursday in the US District Court in Milwaukee, prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed that Martinez volunteered to work for five years as a live-in maid and

RP COUPLE/ A8

Abcede shrugs off Salonga, says Marcos deal on

By Alcuin Papa
and Norman Bordadora

A TOP OFFICIAL OF A GOVERNment agency tracking down Ferdinand Marcos' alleged ill-gained assets yesterday swept aside criticisms of his bid to negotiate a deal with the Marcos family and said he would pursue his efforts "despite all the brickbats."

Commissioner Ricardo Abcede of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said the Marcos issue should finally be put to rest.

"Despite all the brickbats, I will do what I believe is right and what is good for our people," Abcede told reporters, reacting to Salonga's statements that entering into a compromise agreement with the Marcoses would be like Holocaust victims striking a deal with the Nazis.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Salonga also said the appointment of PCGG commissioners to boards of sequestered companies was a conflict of interest in violation of the code of ethics for public officials.

Salonga said that even President Macapagal-Arroyo was liable under the law because it was she who appointed some of the PCGG commissioners to the sequestered corporations.

PCGG chair Camilo Sabio refused to be drawn into the fray.

"The President just called me today and told me to cool down the issue so I prefer not to comment," Sabio said.

ABCEDE / A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY MEL LAWRENCE DE GUZMAN, PDI RESEARCH/05/28/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

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Release of Erap backer a mistake – Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum

OOPS, WRONG MOVE. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said on Friday that the Department of Justice had erred in ordering the release of all five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada who were seized on May 22 in controversial circumstances.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY, Ruben Dionisio (center) together with the "Erap 5" during their release from Camp Crame last Thursday night on the orders of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Dionisio is flanked by Dennis Ibona, Virgilio Eustaquio (with clenched fist) and Jim Cabautan.

PDI PHOTO FILE

One man, Ruben Dionisio, 60, should have been kept in detention given the strong case of rebellion against him, according to Gonzalez.

"That guy should not have been released. The problem is when it was announced that the four would be released, [Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco] thought all would be released," Gonzalez said.

He said that "in the complexity of things that have been happening," only Virgilio Eustaquio, Jim Lucio Cabauatan, Dennis Ibuna and PO3 Jose Justo Curameng should have been freed on May 25.

At 1 p.m. of that day, Velasco announced that he had ordered the release of the five men, to allow them to seek legal counsel and prepare for a preliminary investigation.

Three hours later, Gonzalez called the INQUIRER to say that it was he who had ordered the release because he felt that the evidence against the five might "not be sufficient to declare probable cause."

The five men were released at about 7:45 p.m.

Eustaquio chairs the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice. Cabauatan and Ibuna are the vice chairs.

Curameng, their friend, works for the intelligence division of the Quezon City Police.

The one they're after

Gonzalez said that while the evidence against Eustaquio et al. was "circumstantial," law enforcers had a strong case against Dionisio, a purported ranking member of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Gonzalez said a former New People's Army hit man, Delfin de Guzman, had tagged Dionisio as the one sent out to kill President Macapagal-Arroyo and certain members of the Cabinet, including himself.

GONZALEZ

He added that Dionisio was really the man whom government men were pursuing but that the latter ran into Eustaquio's house in Quezon City, from where all five men were seized.

Gonzalez also expressed surprise why Dionisio, who claimed to have been tortured while in detention, had left the Philippine National Police Hospital.

"He was placed in the hospital in Camp Crame precisely so doctors there can establish whether he was tortured. But he left right away after his release," Gonzalez said, adding: "A normal person would have stayed to get a medico-legal report."

Gonzalez said it was possible that the marks on Dionisio's body were the result of his "resisting" arrest, and that certain parties were "orchestrating things."

"That's a strange thing... Why was he removed from the hospital and transferred to another hospital? The more it becomes curiouser," Gonzalez said.

A sister of Dionisio's said Friday that he was in a hospital in Metro Manila for a continued checkup.

'Bungled liquidation'

The other men have also claimed not only physical but also mental torture.

On Friday, Curameng told a press briefing at the Senate: "It was a bungled liquidation operation."

Said Eustaquio: "They were trying to force us to admit we were members of the NPA and were involved in conspiracy to bring down the government.

"In the end, they said we would be free. They suggested we create a scenario that they would rescue us and blame the NPA for our abduction."

In a letter sent yesterday to the INQUIRER, prosecutor Velasco took issue with its May 26 editorial that criticized him for saying that "the allegations of torture committed by the military are routine."

Velasco said that contrary to the callous picture being painted of him, he said he had even asked the five to "formalize their complaint of torture against the officers and immediately file the case in court."

He said he made the suggestion on Wednesday after Dionisio showed his bruises to reporters.

"I then instructed the policemen to provide [the five] a telephone facility so they could immediately get in touch with their [legal] counsel and provide them public attorneys if they can't afford one," Velasco said.

"I also vividly remember that I even warned the police officers that if anything untoward happens to the five, I will hold them personally liable and will not hesitate to file criminal charges against them," he said.

Personal apology

Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado yesterday offered a personal apology for the military's failure to immediately report the five men's abduction.

"If somebody was slighted [by what had happened], I'm offering my apology in my personal capacity," Honrado said, adding that there was always room to improve the flow of information in the AFP.

But Honrado said there was "no malice" and "no deliberate attempt" to cover up the incident.

"We were dealing with real-time information. We were basing our pronouncements on information available at the time," he said on the phone.

He added that "as soon as we received a report" that the five men were in military custody, Press information Office chief Col. Tristan Kison called for a press conference.

Kison had initially denied but later admitted that the five men were indeed in the custody of the military intelligence unit.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has demanded that Kison make a public apology.

But according to Honrado, that Kison immediately called for a press briefing as soon as he had confirmed the arrests showed "there was that honesty in there."

With reports from TJ Burgonio and Luige A. del Puerto

Another Bayan Muna member shot dead

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—THE LEFTIST killings continue.

Another member of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna was shot dead yesterday in Barangay Parian, Calamba City by still unidentified gunmen.

Calamba police chief Supt. Roland Bustos identified the latest victim as Noli Capulong, deputy secretary general of Bayan Muna in Southern Tagalog.

Police said the victim was shot four times in different parts of the body by two bonnet-wearing gunmen on board a motorcycle at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

He was rushed to the St. John Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Capulong is a brother of lawyer Emilio Capulong, chair of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines' Lawyers League.

The INQUIRER learned that Capulong had just came from a meeting of Bayan Muna in Belarmnino Subdivision in Parian when he was gunned down.

"We're still conducting investigation," Bustos said in a mobile phone interview.

Bayan Muna immediately condemned the attack and blamed it on the military.

Carl Ala, spokesperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, who was the first to inform the INQUIRER of the shooting, pointed to the so-called military death squad as the most likely suspect.

Data from Task Force Usig, the police group tasked to investigate the series of leftist killings, showed that 123 militants had been murdered since 2001.

Karapatan, a human rights group, said 585 activists were gunned down in the same period.

The spate of killings targeting leftist activists has prompted militant lawmakers to formally ask Congress to investigate the murders.

House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo and his fellow militant lawmakers have filed House Resolution 1269 directing the House committee on human rights to look into the wave of leftist killings.

"The brutal murders mostly of activists indicate a state policy of political repression which allows no room for any and all forms of dissent especially under a regime faced with serious issues of legitimacy, political instability and economic crisis," the resolution said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is also set to investigate the killings, said Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

At least five American women lawyers who have provided legal assistance to suspected terrorists held by the US in Guantánamo Bay are also in town to investigate the murders of political activists, 70 of them women.

The five are in the country upon the invitation of Gabriela party-list Rep. Liza Maza.

Ocampo said he hoped that the House investigation would result in recommendations to penalize the perpetrators, and in measures that will render justice, compensate and rehabilitate victims and their families.

The House must act now to stop the killings and it should start with ferreting out the truth behind the unsolved and continuing extrajudicial killings of farmers, workers, women, youth, church workers, lawyers, journalists and members of party-list and militant organizations, he said.

"Victims organizations and their families believe that the attacks are committed by the military and its agents with either the blessings or complicity of Malacañang," the resolution said.

It accused Ms Arroyo of not decisively acting to put a stop to the political killings and only ordered a probe after over 600 have been killed. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Luigi A. Del Puerto*

Rising human rights abuses alarm Roxas

By Juliet Jabog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ADMINISTRATION SEN. MAR Roxas yesterday expressed alarm over the rising tide of human rights abuses following the abduction of supporters of detained President Joseph Estrada by military agents.

"How can military intelligence officials swoop in and abduct ordinary civilians without going through proper legal procedures? How is this happening to our country? Is there a shadow government operating in the deep background without the knowledge of Palace officials?," Roxas said in a statement.

Five supporters of Estrada were seized by plainclothes military and police agents and kept incommunicado for three days before they were presented Wednesday to a prosecutor to face charges they were plotting to assassinate several members of the Cabinet.

The men said they were innocent, and at least one claimed he was tortured while in detention. The government has ordered an investigation.

Roxas said the Filipino people were entitled to forthright answers on how the abduction came about and the people behind it.

He said intolerance of political, religious and ideological views especially by uniformed personnel "imperils our existence as a genuine constitutional democracy," he said.

He said the initial denial by the military of their arrest of the leaders of the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice raised critical questions.

Roxas said the pattern of human rights abuses led international organizations such as the London-based Amnesty International, the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) and even officials of the US government "now hold the Philippines accountable for these apparent failures of governance."

"This is ironic, at the same time worrisome, since it is the Philippine government that should rightly and firstly rush to the defense of human rights, not other people or foreign institutions," Roxas said.

But Malacañang continues to take pride in its human rights record even as killings of militants and journalists have piled up since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power five years ago.

"This government lives by the rule of law and the democratic processes," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. "Anybody or any institution that wishes to look into the human rights situation in the Philippines is welcome to do so. We have nothing to hide about, and we are proud of our human rights record."

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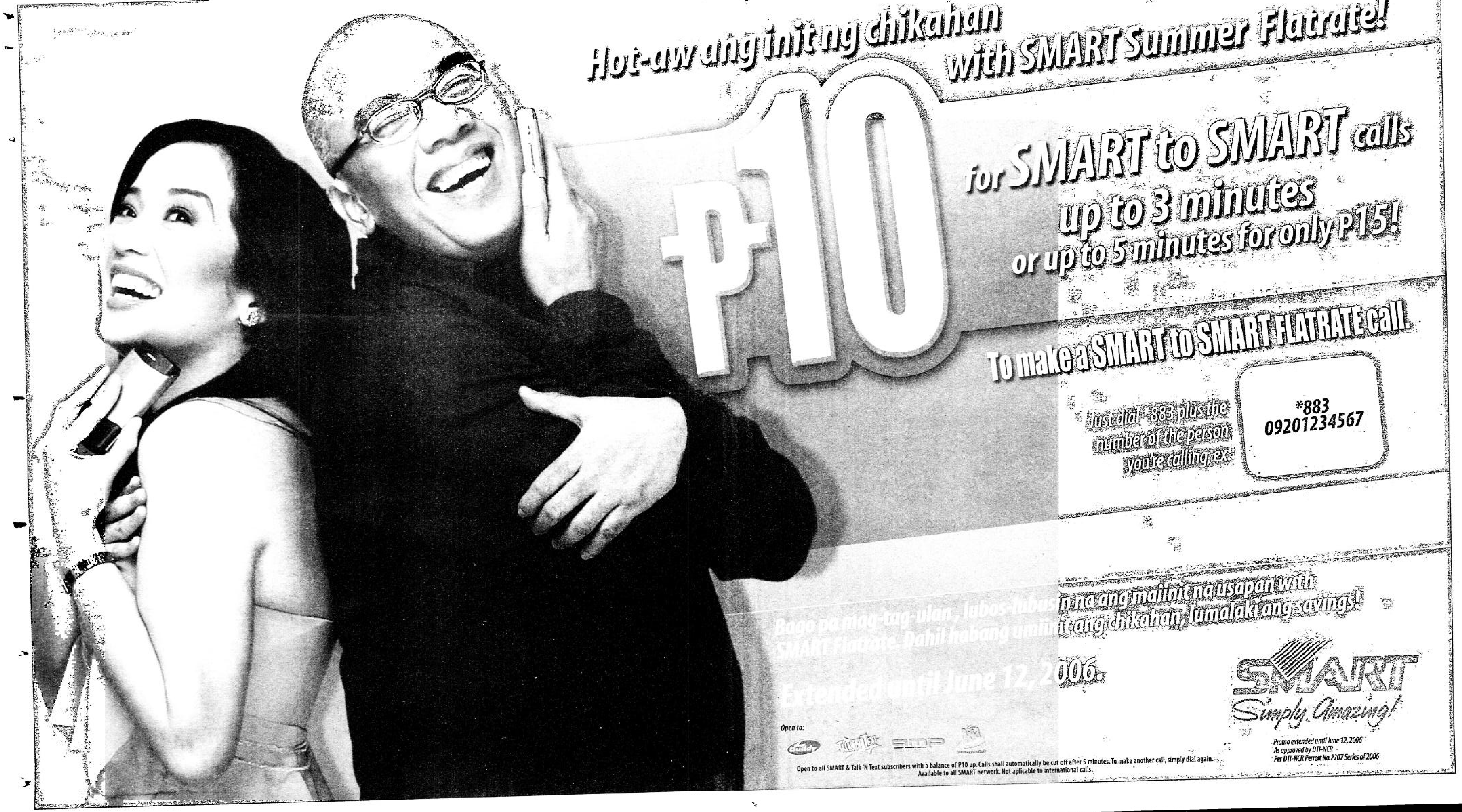

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Despite constant flak, police deny any image crisis

By Luige A. del Puerto

THEY MAY BE GETTING FLAK from politicians, militants and human rights officials, but the police do not feel that their image has suffered in the eyes of the public.

"If we have an image crisis, people would not be going to the police anymore, but so many ask for help from us," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

Not only do people continue to seek police help in criminal matters but they also go to them for such simple services as asking for directions or for security for community activities.

"The requests for assistance have not stopped, sometimes [there's] more than we can handle. So I don't think there is a crisis as far as image [is concerned]," Pagdilao said.

Last week was particularly trying for the Philippine National Police, as two of its members, a top-ranking PNP official and a policeman, were charged with car theft and murder.

Until his dismissal after car parts such as engines with tampered serial numbers were found in his home, Supt. Napoleon Cauyan headed the PNP unit responsible for going after car-jackers in Central Luzon. Cauyan has denied the allegations and claimed that he can prove that the car parts belonged to him.

Pagdilao pointed out that it was the police themselves who moved against the two officers.

PO1 Aaron Golifardo, a suspect in the killing of radio commentator Fernando "Dong" Batul in Puerto Princesa City, was arrested in Camp Crame by his superior officer. Golifardo has denied having had any hand in Batul's murder.

"We just have to look at this as one way of ridding the organization of scalawags," Pagdilao said, adding that the PNP was not perfect.

"The organization itself does not condone behavior like this. So I think it is safe to say that deviant behavior like these are very minimal in the PNP," he added.

Police also recently came under heavy criticism from militants and the country's official human rights watchdog for its failure to stop the spate of killings of leftist activists and journalists.

The PNP is now considering applying its "one-strike" policy as one of the measures to stem the killings.

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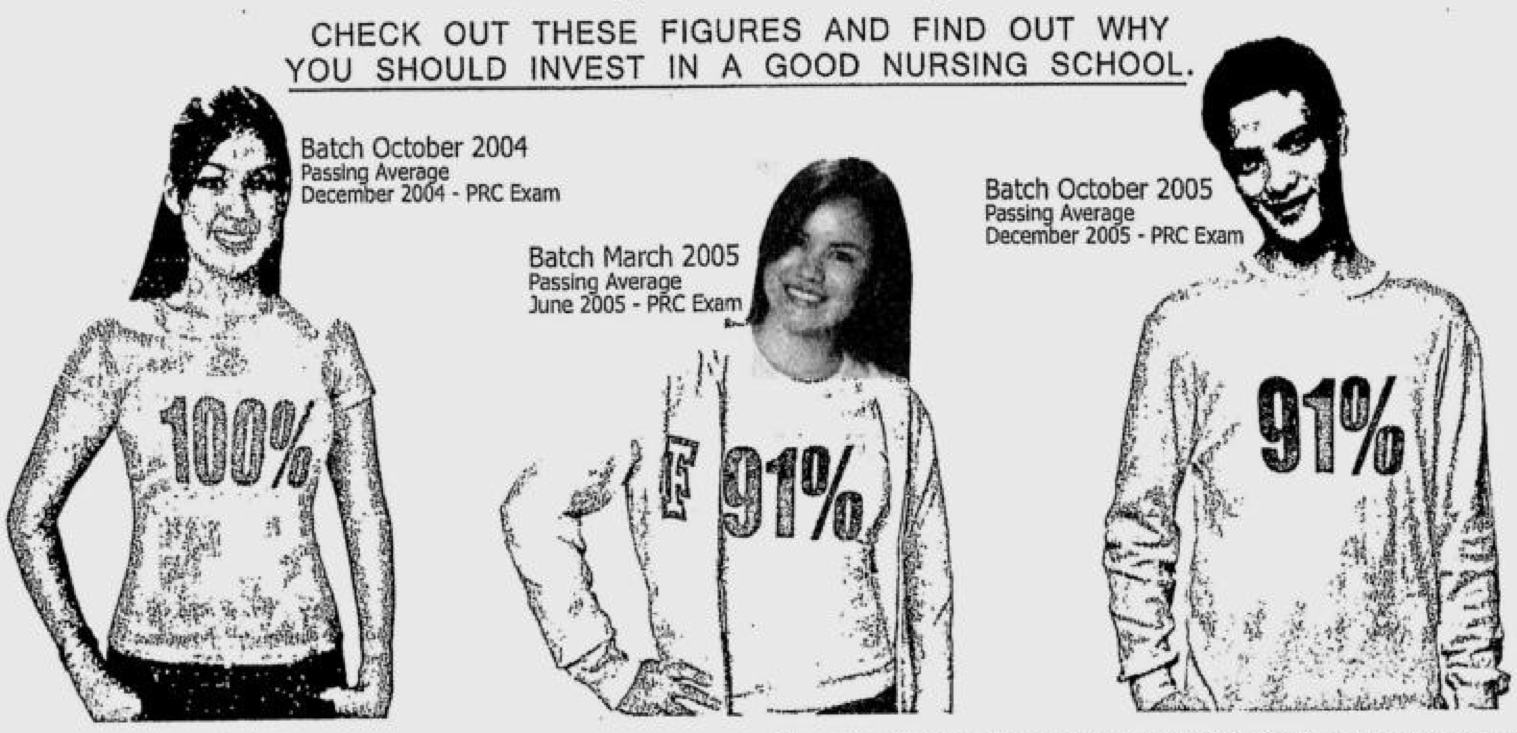

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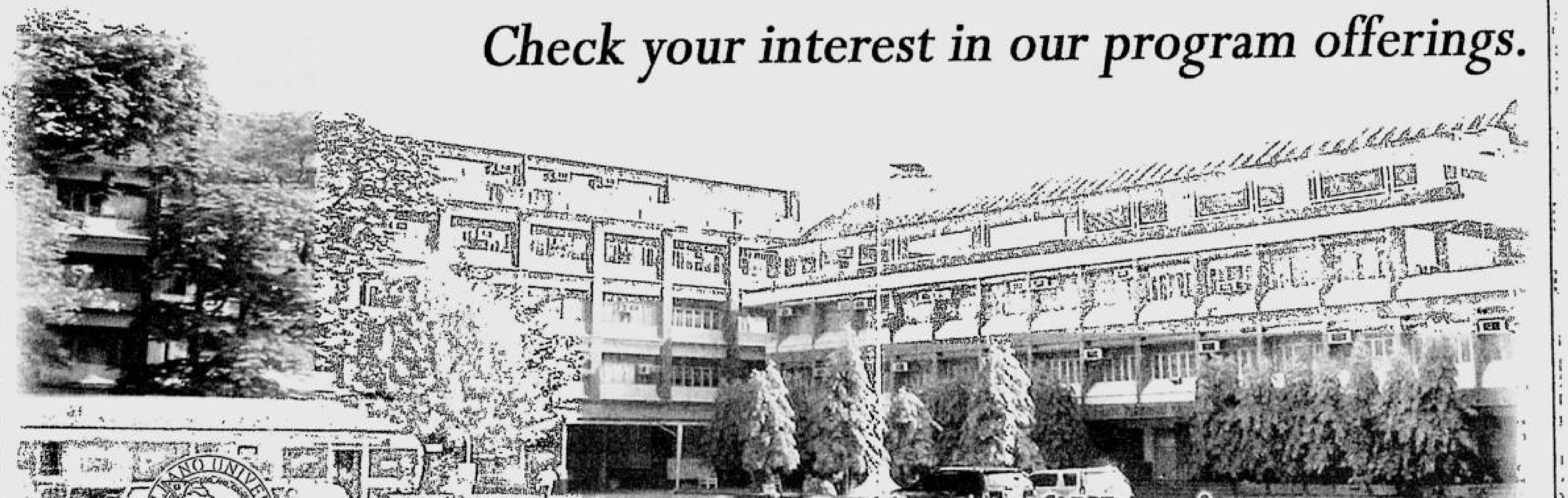

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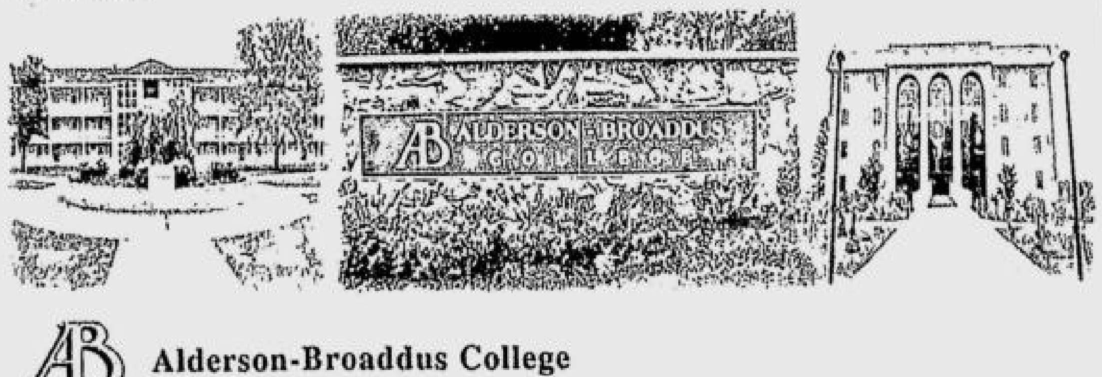

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Mysterious hike in DND chief's budget questioned

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAD ALlocated P316 million for the office of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz but this was mysteriously increased to P559 million in the House version of the budget now being deliberated in the Senate.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who noticed the huge discrepancy, wants to know who made the "illegal quantum increase" of 77 percent for Cruz.

"It is a mystery why the House version increased it to P559 million. Hence, the Senate should investigate how and why this amount was inserted in the House version," she said.

Santiago raised the question during the deliberation of the defense department budget in the Senate on Friday afternoon.

"The Constitution provides that Congress may not increase the appropriations recommended by the President. Whoever initiated this quantum increase for Secretary Cruz violated the Charter," Santiago said.

She stressed that Congress may decrease but not increase the budget submitted by Malacañang.

Santiago said that in the budget submitted to Congress by Ms Arroyo, the amount appropriated for Cruz was only P316 million.

If Cruz initiated the increase in his budget, the feisty senator said, he should be disciplined for going against the President.

"No Cabinet member should lobby for an increase over what the President recommended. On the contrary, it is his responsibility to defend the President's budget," she said.

The Senate conditionally approved the defense budget, which included the appropriation for the Armed Forces, subject to two requirements. First is the submission next week of the AFP's report on the warrantless arrest of five supporters of detained President Joseph Estrada and second the department's explanation for the huge increase in Cruz's budget.

Aside from Cruz, Santiago also noted sharp increases in the budgets for the offices of certain Cabinet members in the House version of the 2006 budget.

These are: An increase from P7.1 billion to P13 billion, or 83.4 percent, for the office of Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza; from P524.4 million to P732 million or 39.6 percent increase for the office of Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro; and from P969 million to P1.23 billion or 28.2 percent increase for the office of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano.

Santiago said the increases must be explained by the respective secretaries before the Senate approves the proposed 2006 budget.

Pope appoints new RP bishop

POPE BENEDICT XVI YESTERDAY APpointed Fr. Pablo Virgilio Siongco David, a brother of INQUIRER columnist Randy David, as auxiliary bishop of San Fernando, Pampanga.

David is the director of formation at the theology department of the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary in San Fernando City.

He is also the vice president of the Catholic Biblical Association of the Philippines, and deputy chief of the San Fernando Archdiocesan Media Apostolate Networks Unlimited Inc.

As auxiliary bishop, David will be assisting San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Aniceto.

Born in Guagua, Pampanga, the 47-year-old David is one of 13 children of the late Pedro David and Beinvenida Siongco.

He finished his elementary education at the Betis Elementary School in Guagua, his minor seminary formation at the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary, and his college seminary formation at the San Jose Seminary, Ateneo de Manila University where he graduated in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in Pre-Divinity.

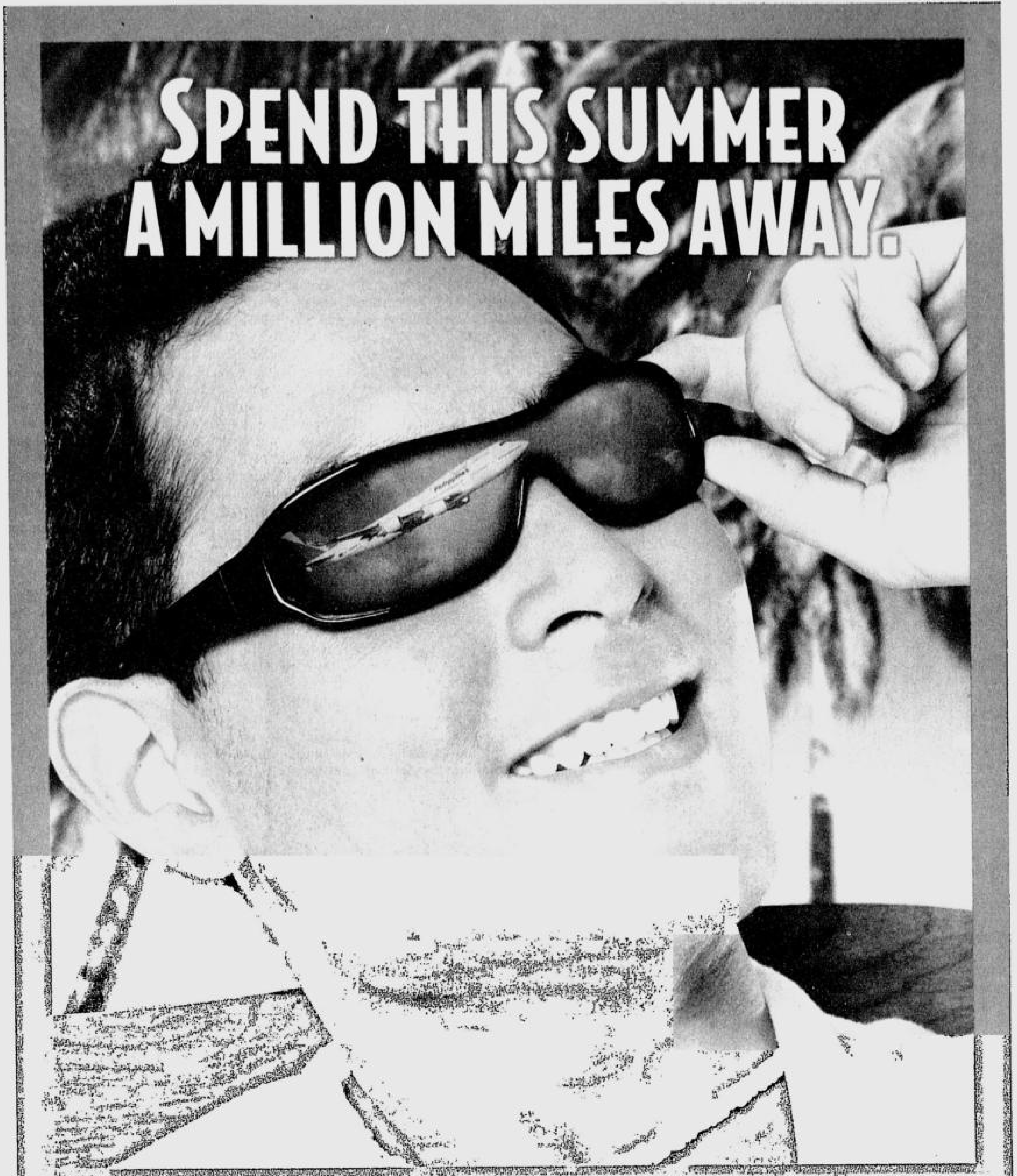
David earned a master's degree in Theology at the Ateneo's Loyola School of Theology in 1984. He went to the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium for his Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1988, and his doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1991.

Ordained in 1983, David first served as assistant parish priest of the Santa Lucia parish of Sasmuan, Pampanga.

Since 1984, he served successively as director of the philosophy department, dean of the graduate school of theology, and spiritual director of the theology department of the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary:

David has also held key positions at the San Fernando Archdiocese, notably that of director of the pastoral secretariat, director of the committee for the clergy formation and director of the commission on clergy affairs.

He has been a regular guest professor of Scriptures at the Maryhill School of Theology in Quezon City and at the Loyola School of Theology. *Jerome Aning*



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A haven for Filipino patriots; birthplace of RP flag

Forged in revolution . . .

From page A1

Philippines was a land of savages.

Three hundred years of Spanish racial discrimination heightened Filipino resistance to that kind of slur. But composure was maintained in the face of such affronts.

The defense of Bataan in 1942 found the Philippine flag and the "Old Glory" swaying side by side in the wind. Combined Filipino-American forces put up such a defense under the inspiration of the flags that the Japanese military timetable was thrown off track.

Tattered but proud

The world then saw, towering over the battlefields of the Bataan peninsula, the Philippine flag, tattered, ripped by bullets, still proudly clinging to a battered pole, urging a people to fight on even in the face of certain defeat.

Never was a flag so obeyed in its call for sacrifice. Bataan and Corregidor became synonymous with the indomitable spirit of Filipino resistance.

In September of 1950, a Filipino military contingent landed in South Korea in fulfillment of the Philippine pledge to help in the United Nations' effort to stem communist North Korea's invasion of South Korea.

Summer warriors in winter

Filipinos thrive in tropical climate. In Korea, they faced the reality of a winter war. Raid after successful raid against the enemy gave the Filipinos a fighting reputation.

China's entry into the war would further give them the chance to sew into the fabric of the Philippine flag the meaning of valor to its highest degree.

When Allied forces neared the Yalu River dividing Korea and Manchuria, Chinese troops attacked. The UN forces withdrew. Except the Filipinos.

MacArthur impressed

Not having received the order to withdraw, they remained, determined to fight to the last man. They were finally ordered to retreat, the last to leave a battlefield full of dead enemies.

Operation after operation, the Filipinos shone. Even Gen. Douglas MacArthur was impressed. On several occasions, they were, among the UN forces, the unit farthest north.

The story behind the Filipino defense of Yultong Ridge is a tale to be told. When the Chinese attack came, all UN forces retreated, except the Filipinos who, rallying under the flag and defying orders, remained and engaged the Chinese in bitter close quarter fighting.

Inspired UN effort

Knowing the strength of the Chinese, the UN Command wrote off the Filipino forces. The Command was surprised to learn later that the Filipinos were still fighting the enemy. They were ordered to disengage. The order was ignored. They fought on and helped inspire the UN effort to ward off the communist attack.

It would be an understatement to say that they prevented the UN front from collapsing.

And so it was that the world saw the Philippine flag waving gallantly in Korean sky. No doubt, the ultimate standard of courage.

By Augusto V. de Viana,
Contributor
National Historical Institute

DURING THE LATTER PART OF the Spanish colonial rule, the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American war, Hong Kong served as a refuge for Filipino patriots.

In the aftermath of the execution in 1872 of Filipino secular priests Fathers Mariano Gomes, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora, who championed the rights of the native clergy, Filipino exiles such as Jose Ma. Basa sought refuge in the Colony, then under British rule.

Basa was first deported to the Marianas in 1872 but escaped and lived in Hong Kong. He would later help smuggle Rizal's novel, the *Noli Me Tangere*, to the Philippines.

House in Wanchai

When the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896, more Filipinos escaping Spanish tyranny found their way to Hong Kong. Among them was a lawyer named Felipe Agoncillo.

Accused of being a *filibustero*, or subversive, and facing arrest, Agoncillo fled to the Colony. There he would be joined by his wife, Marcela Agoncillo, and their daughters. They lived in a house on Morrison Hill Road in Wanchai.

As the Philippine Revolution wore on, the street became a gathering place of Filipino patriots. At the conclusion of the Pact of Biak na Bato in December 1897, they were joined by revolutionary leaders, like General Emilio Aguinaldo.

Guest who loved to cook

One of the visitors to the Agoncillo house was Antonio Luna. Mrs. Agoncillo would recount that Luna, who became a general in the revolutionary army, loved to cook and, whenever he dropped by, would go straight to the kitchen to cook European dishes.

Another visitor was Aguinaldo, who would use the place to meet with other Filipino revolutionaries. Returning from Singapore, where American consul Spencer Pratt convinced him to resume leadership of the Philippine Revolution, Aguinaldo dropped by and asked Mrs. Agoncillo a unique favor: She was to sew the flag of the Philippines.

Mrs. Agoncillo agreed to undertake the task. Working with her were her 5-year-old daughter, Lorenza, and Delfina Herbosa Natividad, a niece of the martyred Rizal, who married one of Aguinaldo's generals.

Of finest silk

Mrs. Agoncillo bought the finest silk cloth from a nearby market. The trio worked manually with the aid of a sewing machine. Their eyes and fingers hurt from the prolonged sewing. Sometimes, they had to redo the flag because a ray in the sun was not sewn right.

The flag, which became known as the sun and the stars flag, was finished after five days. On May 17, it was packed among the things Aguinaldo brought to Manila.

It was the same flag that was unfurled from the window of Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Cavite, during the proclamation of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898.

Unmarked sites

Filipinos continued to work for independence as Hong Kong became the base of the Philippine Central Committee, or the Hong Kong Junta. They tried to convince other countries to recognize Philippine independence.

After American rule was established in Manila, many of its members, including Felipe Agoncillo, returned to the Philippines to wage a struggle to secure the country's freedom.

Today, a simple marker stands at the Morrison Hill Park in Hong Kong to mark the site where the first Philippine flag was sewn.

The sites of the Agoncillo residence and of the Hong Kong Junta remain unmarked until today.

Bush honors Pinay, a cancer, domestic violence survivor

From page A1

Corps, a nonprofit organization of senior citizens who volunteer to address social problems, particularly literacy, Sturwold goes twice a week to the school and works one-on-one with children who are struggling to learn to read.

She also teaches knitting to boys and girls after school as a way of building confidence and a mentoring relationship with them.

She believes that success in teaching is not just seeing the children learn to read but also getting them excited about going to school and learning things for the first time.

Loving one's neighbor

"I created this award because I understand the great strength of the United States of America is not found in our military, and it's certainly not because of the size of our wallets. It's because the strength of America is found in the hearts and souls of generous citizens who answer to a universal call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself," Bush said in a speech during the Asian Pacific American Heritage month celebration on May 12.

Four other Asian Pacific immigrants were recognized this year. They work with the Salvation Army, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, a mission house in Florida, and the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters.

Some 14 million Americans can trace their roots to the Asian Pacific region, according to the White House.

"I am proud of the ... many achievements of our citizens of Asian and Pacific Island heritage. You really have enriched America by your contributions. You've made us a better land," Bush said.

Lessons from life

Indeed, America can learn much from Sturwold beyond reading and knitting.

And it's not only her master's degree in American literature or doctorate in education that give her credibility to speak of lessons from life.

Sturwold, who went to New York in 1952 for postgraduate studies, is a survivor of domestic violence and breast cancer, both of which nearly killed her.

In an e-mail interview with the INQUIRER, Sturwold recalled her battle with cancer, which started in 1983. She had to undergo chemotherapy and surgery on her left breast.

When she overcame the illness, Sturwold joined the support group "Reach to Recovery" of the American Cancer Society, lobbying for mammography at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked as an editor of internal publications, arranging workshops and low-cost certificates for mammograms, and producing a video of cancer survivors telling their stories of pain and triumph.

For her volunteer efforts in cancer prevention and detection, she was given a Public Health Service Award in 1992 at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Battered wife

But while she was being recognized for her work, Sturwold's life at home was little short of hellish—and no one knew about it.

Her husband, whom she met when they were both graduate students in New York, was beating her. The abuse started only a month after their marriage.

The man would choke her with a belt, bang her head against the wall, and belittle her even without provocation, she said.

Sturwold endured the abuse about four times a week for six years. She never fought back simply because it was not in her nature to do so.

"I thought this was my lot in life—like some husbands are gamblers, some womanizers, etc.—and I was resigned to my fate of being abused," she said.

Sturwold said she tried to kill herself several times.

Once, after three years of suffering at her husband's hands, she ran away—but returned home after mediation by a Jesuit priest and a promise from her husband that he would not hurt her anymore.

It was a promise easily broken.

Finally, Sturwold told someone about her domestic trouble. Alarmed, her boss at the Center for Disease Control bought her a one-way plane ticket for California and gave her pocket money. Within an hour she was flying out with a small suitcase.

'They were helping me'

Sturwold stayed in California with a cousin until she thought she was ready to return to the Philippines for good.

She got a divorce but she stayed put, having found a home for special children and adults and deciding to do volunteer work for them.

"The group members (some of them with Down's Syndrome) actually helped me gain my sanity and rebuild my confidence. The irony is they thought I was helping them, when without their knowing it, they were really helping me," Sturwold said.

It was this realization that confirmed her desire to live a life of volunteerism—from helping battered women to educating breast cancer patients, and tutoring children having a hard time in school.

Since then, she has spent many years working at a shelter for battered women and their children, doing services that ranged from preparing packets of toiletries for women fleeing abusive husbands to speaking of her own experience to show that it was possible to rediscover life after suffering domestic violence.

Filipino at heart

Sturwold said that during her volunteer work, she had never failed to be on the lookout for fellow Filipinos.

While with the American Cancer Society, she asked to be allowed to provide support to Filipino women undergoing treatment. And now in San Francisco, she likes helping Filipino children, even with their native Tagalog.

"I am, and always will be, a Filipino at heart," Sturwold said.

"The White House Award was totally unexpected... I couldn't believe it. With a nationwide search for volunteers they want to honor, I was completely overwhelmed that I was one of five chosen," she said.

But this Filipino mentor of Americans, while flattered by the honor and attention, is more excited by another day of serving and sharing the beauty of lessons learned.

"I still subscribe to [the poet Robert] Browning's words 'Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be!'" she said.

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'Pinoy Idol' organizers no-show . . .

From page A1

audition for the new television show on ABC 5, a franchise of the hugely popular "American Idol," ended up waiting for more than six hours and belting out complaints.

With feeling

"This is an insult. We have been waiting for several hours," a 47-year-old father, who came with his 17-year-old daughter, told the INQUIRER as the rest of the hopefuls gathered at the food court of the SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa, Quezon City yesterday.

Those who trooped to the mall as early as 7:30 a.m. had planned to join the fast-track auditions scheduled there.

According to ABC 5 announcements, those chosen at the mall auditions would be given special passes so they will no longer line up during the audition proper. They will also get free transportation and accommodation.

The hopefuls had been waiting for hours when they learned, an hour after the scheduled 10 a.m. registration, that the mall audition had been canceled.

"ABC 5 canceled the audition last Wednesday. As far as we are concerned, there are no scheduled events here," said a marketing officer of the mall, who asked the hopefuls to leave.

"We were not prepared for this big gathering," she added, frowning as she observed the crowd of applicants seated on tables and chairs, arguing, but not ordering food.

Why it was canceled

The reason for the cancellation: The mall had designated its open parking area as the venue for the screenings, but judges and program organizers reportedly found the area too hot and uncomfortable, a security official of the mall said.

Perci Intalan, vice president for Creative and Entertainment Production of ABC 5, told the INQUIRER that the organizers decided to cancel the screenings yesterday because they found the venue "too small."

He said the cancellation was aired last week on radio stations 101.1 Yes FM and 90.7 Love Radio. A print advertisement in the INQUIRER's May 26 issue also announced the "revised schedule" of the fast-track screenings, he added.

It was nobody's fault, Intalan said, adding that fast-track screenings were handled by Manila Broadcasting Corp., ABC 5's media partner for "Philippine Idol."

The next screenings will be held on May 30 at SM Valenzuela, on June 1 at SM Manila and June 2 at SM San Lazaro.

Feeling sorry

Feeling sorry for their wasted time, effort and money, some of the hopefuls started their own attendance sheet. They went up to the mall's fourth floor to submit the sheet to the mall administration office.

There were at least 159 applicants based on the attendance sheet, but scores of other hopefuls, who did not know an attendance sheet was being passed around, failed to write their names.

Mell, 22, who did not give his real name, afraid it would ruin his chances in the next audition, said he decided to phone ABC 5 shortly before noon. He came all the way from his hometown in Laguna and had been waiting at the mall since 8 a.m.

He reached the network officials, who in turn contacted mall officials and promised to send a representative.

More promises

The network officials said they would redistribute the applicants to the other scheduled fast-track auditions in other SM malls this week. They also promised to send a representative at 1:30 p.m.

The appointed time came. Still, no one from the TV network showed up. There were still over a hundred hopefuls at the food court, displacing mall customers. Mell and his friend Corvin, 24, (also not his real name), facilitated a second attendance sheet.

Those who signed the earlier list were again asked to sign the new sheet, this time choosing which among the next fast-track auditions they preferred to attend.

But many applicants had already gone home—frustrated.

Keeping fingers crossed

Finally, a representative from ABC 5 arrived at 2:30 p.m. The hopefuls, who were still gathered at the food court, were asked to go to the fourth floor, clogging the escalators.

The representative, who introduced herself as Judith, told the tired applicants they were assured of slots in the next fast-track auditions. Only 150 hopefuls are allowed per fast track audition.

"We are very sorry," Judith told the already irritated applicants. She had to repeat her explanation three times because of the huge crowd. Mall officials later lent her a megaphone.

Hours later, the applicants finally went home—fingers crossed—hopeful that Judith and ABC 5 would keep their promises this time.

With a report from Marinel R. Cruz

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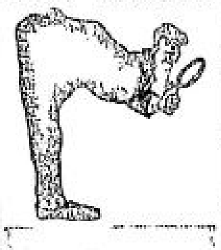

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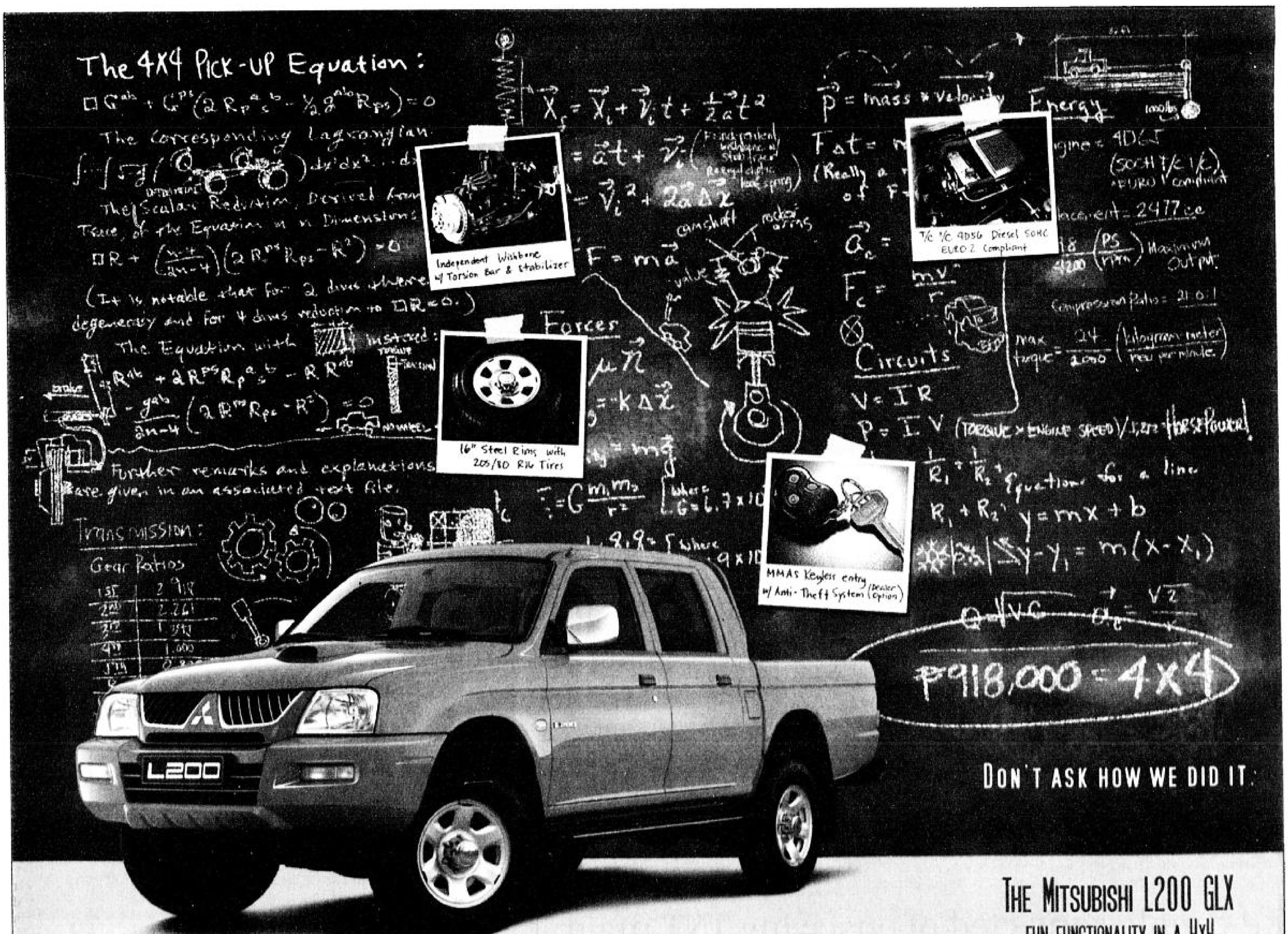
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INJURED WOMAN is being brought down at a hospital following the devastating earthquake at the densely-populated southern coast of Indonesia's Central Java early Saturday morning. AFP

Quake kills 3,000; 200,000 homeless

From page A1

of the dust raised by the falling houses," said Bakit, 18, a high school student, the left side of his face badly bruised and swollen.

"I was thrown by the quake and could only crawl out as everything was falling around me," he said.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono ordered the Army to help evacuate victims, as panicked residents ran into the smoldering streets, many clutching young children. He said he would head to the disaster zone in Central Java province later Saturday.

Number of dead keep rising

Nine hours after the quake struck, the number of dead stood at 2,900, said Direvan, an official in the social affairs ministry's task force office, with two-thirds of the fatalities occurring in the devastated district of Bantul.

"The numbers just keep rising," said Arifin Muhadi of the Indonesian Red Cross, adding that nearly 2,900 people were hurt.

Two-thirds of the fatalities occurred in the devastated district of Bantul south of Yogyakarta which was flattened.

"There is only one house remaining standing here, that of the head of the hamlet, but even that is not safe anymore as the walls are cracked," said Ngadiyo, 63, crouching in front of the rubble of his house in central Bantul.

"I have never gone through an earthquake this strong during my entire life," said his elder brother, Jodi Riwono, 46, who was trapped unconscious under rubble before being rescued by a grandson. "I thank God that I am allowed more time to live," he said.

Doctors struggled to care for the injured, hundreds of whom were lying on plastic sheets, straw mats and even newspapers outside the overcrowded hospitals, some hooked to intravenous drips dangling from trees.

Bodies in hallway

"We need help here," said Kusmarwanto of Bantul Muhammadiyah Hospital, the closest hospital to the quake's epicenter, adding that his hospital alone had 39 bodies.

At nearby Dr. Sardjito Hospital, health officials tallied 60 dead, but more bodies were lined up in the hallway and some family members were taking them home before they could be added to the official toll.

THE RUBBLE of a flattened building next to a hotel in Yogyakarta, Central Java. AFP

"We have hundreds of injured people, our emergency care unit is overwhelmed," said Heru Nugroho.

The quake cracked the runway at the Adisucipto airport in Yogyakarta, home to the famed Borobudur temple, closing it to aircraft until at least Sunday while inspections were to be done, Transport Minister Hatta Radjasa said.

Metro TV however reported that the airport was badly damaged, with the roof of an airport section collapsing and at least one person trapped.

Flights have been diverted to the nearby city of Solo.

Officials said they did not know yet if the 9th century Buddhist temple, considered one of the seven wonders of the world, was damaged by the quake.

In hardest-hit Bantul district, Subarjo, a 70-year-old food vendor, was sobbing next to his dead wife, his house completely destroyed.

Elsewhere in Mulyodadi village rescuers tried to pull bodies from the rubble.

'I couldn't help my wife'

"I couldn't help my wife ... I was trying to rescue my children, one with a broken leg, and then the house collapsed. I couldn't help my wife," he said weakly. Then, "I have to accept this as our destiny, as God's will."

Yogyakarta is around 30 km from the sea and in the chaos that followed the quake, false rumors of an impending tsunami sent thousands of people fleeing to higher ground in cars and on motorbikes.

Meteorologists said the quake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, but both US and Hong Kong monitors registered it at 6.2.

The quake's epicenter was close to the Mount Merapi volcano, which has been rumbling for weeks and sending out large clouds of hot gas and ash.

Activity increased on Saturday, with one eruption that came soon after the quake, sending debris some 3.5 km down its western flank. Bambang Dwiyanto of the energy and mineral ministry said the two events did not appear to be directly related.

Almost all people had already been evacuated away from the volcano's danger zone, and there were no reports of injuries as a result of the eruption.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

A magnitude-9.1 earthquake on Dec. 26, 2004, under the sea off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island triggered a tsunami that killed more than 131,000 people in Aceh province, and more than 100,000 others in nearly a dozen other countries.

AP, AFP

RP couple convicted of enslaving TNT maid

From page A1

nanny for the Calimlims and their three children.

Lost best years of her life

But prosecutors said Martinez "lost the best years of her life" because she feared imprisonment and deportation if she left the family.

"The defendants stole 19 years of Irma Martinez's life," said Susan French, a prosecutor from the US Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C. "They stole 19 years of freedom."

She said the couple benefited from Martinez's cheap labor.

Calimlims' lawyer Tom Brown told jurors the couple had plenty of money to hire an American worker. He said Elnora wanted a Filipino maid because she had one while growing up in the Philippines, and she wanted only to help a fellow Filipino.

Elnora testified that Martinez earned $150 (P7,932) a month for the first 10 years and $400 (P21,153) a month thereafter.

According to French, most of the money went to Martinez's parents, who received about $18,000 (P951,894) over the next 19 years.

Not paid minimum wage

Martinez would have earned about $480,000 (P25.38 million) over that period had the Calimlims paid her a US minimum wage for her 16-hour days, a US Department of Labor witness testified.

AP

Claimants get favorable notice on $35M of Marcos wealth

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER A WAIT OF TWO decades, the victims of human rights violations during martial law are close to getting compensation for the ordeal they suffered during the rule of Ferdinand Marcos, a lawmaker said yesterday.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales, said she and other victims had received notices from the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals which had ruled in favor of their claim to $35 million held by the Panama-based Arelma company supposedly set up by Marcos in 1972.

Formal notice

"We won $35 million and this money will go to the claimants," Rosales said. "I got my formal notice and it asked if I have any objections at all to the judgment. They are now making first the step that would ultimately lead to its distribution."

Rosales said the US appellate court on May 5 unanimously upheld a lower court decision awarding to the victims the money supposedly kept by New York brokerage house Merrill Lynch.

The victims' lawyers filed a claim for the money in 2000.

The original $35 million is said to have grown to at least $40 million due to interest.

Lawyers' fees

Rosales said that at least 7,500 human rights victims would benefit from the decision.

However, the court will first have to determine the amount of fees due to the victims' lawyers, she said.

"I've thought that there might be nothing left for the victims," she said jokingly. "But it is the court that will decide that and it will do so fairly."

Previously, a US court in Hawaii awarded the victims about $2 billion in compensation from the Marcos estate but this has been tied up in legal wranglings.

Abcede shrugs off ...

From page A1

Abcede said it was a pity that Salonga "feels this way" about him and the other PCGG officers.

Abcede rejected claims that by entering into negotiations with the late dictator's heirs, the PCGG was encouraging future Philippine leaders to plunder the treasury.

"The pseudo-logic behind that view is flawed and illusory in that it does nothing else than impute a motive," said Abcede.

Time to settle

"It is so darn easy to concoct the strangest of motives for anything we are against. We bat for reconciliation to achieve certain beneficial ends and not to 'encourage plunder.' We don't dump something good and useful in itself just because it is capable of being misused."

Abcede had said it was time to negotiate with the Marcoses rather than allow the hundreds of criminal and civil cases pending against them to drag on for another 20 years.

Abcede has been at the forefront of negotiations with the Marcos camp over sharing of the Marcos assets—variously estimated to be between $5 billion and $10 billlion—in exchange for the dropping of all cases against the Marcoses.

Sold to highest bidder

As of now, the PCGG and the lawyers of former First Lady Imelda Marcos are still at the "exploratory" stage of the talks, he said.

On the issue of whether documents related to the Marcos cases had been lost, Abcede said that according to the PCGG's research department, some documents were "either lost or sold to the highest bidder" by past PCGG officers.

Abcede said that as far as documents related to the cases he was handling were concerned, these were still in the PCGG's possession.

Lavish perks

"These are mistakes in the past and blaming each other will not do anything. What do we do now with the present realities?" he said. "Maybe we have a weak case. But whether the cases are weak or not, I'm after reconciliation. Reconciliation will lead to closure, closure will lead to unity. These terms are my North Star in my work in the PCGG."

Sabio and Abcede denied that PCGG officers sitting on the boards of sequestered firms were receiving "lavish perks."

"What we get are per diems only, and there are limits to these as stipulated by law. But we should be there (on the boards) because we want to guard the assets. This is in line with our mandate to preserve these assets."

PCGG chief OIC of 20 firms

Sabio, for his part, said that what he had been getting was stipulated in circulars from the Office of the President."

"They can look at my statement of assets," the PCGG chair said.

A list Salonga gave the INQUIRER purports to show that Sabio was appointed officer-in-charge and board chair of six sequestered companies of the CIIF Oil Mills Group.

Sabio also sits as OIC and chair of 14 CIIF holding companies, upon Ms Arroyo's appointment, according to the list.

P10,000 per meeting

"How can you look after the government interest when you are receiving benefits from these companies?" Salonga said.

He said there were also instances when the PCGG itself appointed its commissioners to the board of a sequestered firm.

"Sitting in a single board meeting could earn them at least P10,000," Salonga said. "If there are several meetings in a month, that would add up to quite a sizeable amount of money."

Some commissioners received other benefits, Salonga alleged.

"I have a source. I asked him about how much money the commissioners were making as members of the board. When I asked him if it was P10,000 for every meeting, he said that was just the declared amount," Salonga said.

"There are benefits given under the table," he added.

There were other benefits, such as employment of family members and friends to posts in a sequestered firm, Salonga charged.

Salonga should know better

Malacañang said that Salonga, the first PCGG chair, should know better.

"How come during President Cory Aquino's, when the government had all the power, the mandate, and the brilliant legal minds behind it, they did not do anything to resolve the Marcos wealth issue and just allowed the litigation to drag on for 20 years?" Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said on the phone.

Defensor asked: "So why are they questioning the government's move now when they had the latitude to do anything they want with the Marcoses during their time? Remember, they were a revolutionary government at that time."

Defensor said that any financial windfall to be gained from a compromise agreement would not "benefit the government but the people."

Sole PCGG initiative

He also said the government was willing to establish a mechanism whereby neutral groups from the Church and nongovernment organizations would make sure that all the funds would be used for the public's good, specifically health care and education.

But while the Palace defended the PCGG's move to bargain with the Marcoses, Defensor stressed a compromise agreement was the sole initiative of the PCGG and that Ms Arroyo had neither encouraged nor dissuaded them. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Solons hopeful on Cha-cha accord with Senate

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Norman Bordadora

TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PANEL TRYing to settle differences with the Senate on proposed changes to the Constitution said yesterday they remained optimistic about reaching a compromise with their counterparts even though they failed to gain any headway during their first meeting.

Representatives Antonio Cuenco of Cebu City and Mauricio Domogan of Baguio said the fact that the two panels agreed to meet again on June 8 meant that the Senate was still open to the idea of amending the Charter.

But while expressing optimism about the dialogue, they urged Senate President Franklin Drilon not to foreclose the possibility of progress by insisting that the two chambers vote separately if they convene as a constituent assembly to propose changes to the Constitution.

Apart from insisting on separate voting, the majority of senators are against a shift to a unicameral parliament that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her majority in the House are pushing for.

"We know that most senators still favor separate voting. Sen. Drilon doesn't need to rub it in, as if telling us that the panel is just wasting its time," Cuenco said. He added it was important to "find a middle ground so we can attain our goal to push Cha-cha."

Cuenco said that to move forward, the talks should focus first on the proposed amendments before tackling voting procedures.

Domogan said the lawmakers' failure to make any progress during their first meeting last Wednesday was not a setback.

"I believe there will be positive developments in our succeeding meetings," Domogan said. "We are still on the exploratory stage of our dialogue."

Meanwhile, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), an association of local government officials which is pushing for a shift to a parliamentary system via the so-called people's initiative, said yesterday said it will not ask for the scheduling of a plebiscite until after the proposed amendments are presented to the people.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of Ulap and the League of Provinces of the Philippines, cautioned fellow politicians from rushing the amendment process in order to convene an interim parliament by August.

"Our timetable does not call for the convening of an interim parliament in August. We are aware of the urgency of the amendments but our decision is to finalize the nationwide advocacy and consultations at the barangay level," Aumentado said.

"This will make our people fully aware of the implications of the shift to a parliamentary government," he added.

Ulap, nonetheless, expressed hope that members of Congress would break the impasse on convening as a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

In addition, Aumentado said he plans to meet with Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, in Iloilo City Monday to explain Ulap's position.

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Give more discounts, GMA asks oil firms

PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo yesterday made an urgent appeal to oil companies to provide bigger, pump price discounts to public utility jeepneys and buses to stave off another fare rate hike at the start of the school year.

"In the interest and welfare of our people who are bearing the brunt of the global surge in oil prices, I am appealing to all oil companies to extend every possible assistance to the public transport sector which is a heavy user of diesel," the President said in a speech during the Livelihood and Jobs Fair for persons with disabilities in Quezon City.

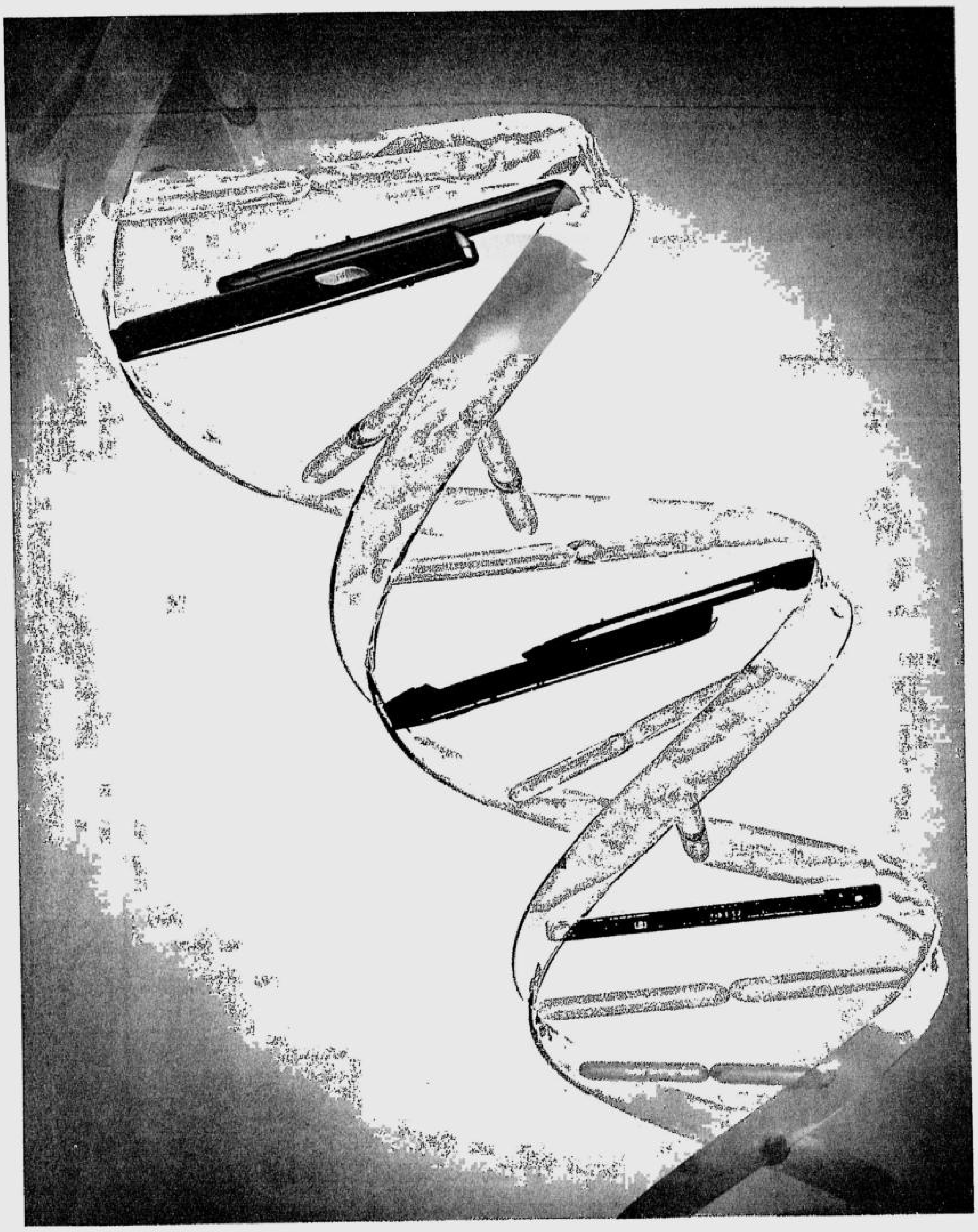
The President made the personal appeal after oil companies jacked up their prices three times this month by an average of 50 centavos per liter per hike.

Early this month, the Department of Energy asked the oil companies to give another P1 discount on every liter of diesel purchased by public utility vehicles on top of the P1 price cut already given in special lanes gas stations.

The DOE claimed that the oil companies could afford to make the additional discounts by focusing the savings generated from the cut in tariffs on oil imports approved by the President only on fuel products used by public transport providers.

The DOE expects oil companies to make price adjustments virtually every week up to July this year as world crude oil prices continue to hover above the $70 per barrel mark.

With oil prices surging, regulators are facing increasing pressure to adjust the minimum fares for buses and jeepneys with the clamor likely to reach a higher pitch next month when the new school year opens. Buses and jeepneys remain as the most popular means of transport in the country especially for students.



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After 5 years at Labor , Sto. Tomas ...

From page A1

to another post.

Asked about the reports that she would soon be leaving the Department of Labor and Employment for the DBP, Sto. Tomas, who once headed the Civil Service Commission, said she did not respond to speculations.

STO. TOMAS: Stuck to GMA

Proven loyalty

Sto. Tomas, who has been in the labor department for much of her government career, is one of the most dependable of the President's Cabinet officials, proving her mettle in handling key labor issues both in the domestic—such as the controversy-ridden Hacienda Luisita strike and successive wage hike petitions—and international fronts, such as the hostaging of Filipino worker Angelo de la Cruz in Iraq.

She also proved her loyalty to the President when she stuck by her throughout the crisis in July 2005 when her most senior Cabinet officials, collectively known as the Hyatt 10, resigned and demanded that the President do the same.

Sto. Tomas was one of six women Cabinet officials who featured regularly in "girl sessions" with the President, as Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor put it.

The group of female Cabinet members enjoyed unusual access to the President, more than the men, simply calling the President and asking her if they could sit down with her to discuss things over coffee, said Defensor.

One of 3 females

Of the six, only Sto. Tomas, Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro and Official Development Assistance Secretary Marita Jimenez have stood by Ms Arroyo through the political crisis caused by allegations that she stole the 2004 elections and that her family was allegedly involved in illegal gambling pay-offs.

She told the INQUIRER that the Hyatt 10 had asked her to join them and was actually with the group at a meeting at the hotel on the eve of their resignation announcement. She refused to join them, saying she would not "embarrass the President."

Marcopper ordered not to move equipment

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANGELO Reyes has ordered Marinduque Copper Mining Corp. not to move anything out of its premises in Marinduque, after the company was caught trying to ship out seven truckloads of scrap iron and other metals weighing at least 10 tons, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said yesterday.

The DENR said in a statement that the order was served on Marcopper last Tuesday by Undersecretary Roy Kyamko, who had found out about the attempt to bring out the truckloads of metal during a recent inspection of the mine premises.

Reyes' order instructed Marcopper to "cease and desist" from transferring equipment and assets pending resolution of various cases against the company, whose operations have been closed down following a series of toxic spills in 1996 and 1997.

Reyes also ordered Kyamko to ensure none of the mining firm's equipment and assets will be moved or disposed of pending an inventory.

The statement said Reyes had also directed the department's regional office to conduct a technical conference with Marcopper within seven days on the amount of fines the company is liable to for violations of the country's anti-pollution laws from March 24, 1996 to August 31, 1997.

The Pollution Control Law provides that "any person found violating or failing to comply with any order, decision or regulation of the Commission (now the Pollution Adjudication Board) for the control or abatement of pollution shall pay a fine not exceeding five thousand pesos per day for every day."

Following the discovery of the attempt to bring out the goods, the municipal government of Sta. Cruz assured the DENR that it will not issue any permit to transport mining materials and it will help prevent any movement of Marcopper properties outside of Marinduque, in coordination with the local police, Coast Guard and the military in the area, the DENR statement added.

DENR records show that the PAB had issued a similar cease-and-desist Order against Marcopper after the discharge of mine tailings into the Boac River, contaminating the river and coastal waters with high concentrations of heavy metals like cadmium, dissolved copper and lead.

The mine spills also affected the Makulapnit and Mogpog rivers, depriving hundreds of fishermen of their livelihood and affecting the health of local residents.

Last February, the Supreme Court cleared the way for the indictment of Marcopper officials on criminal charges arising from the pollution.

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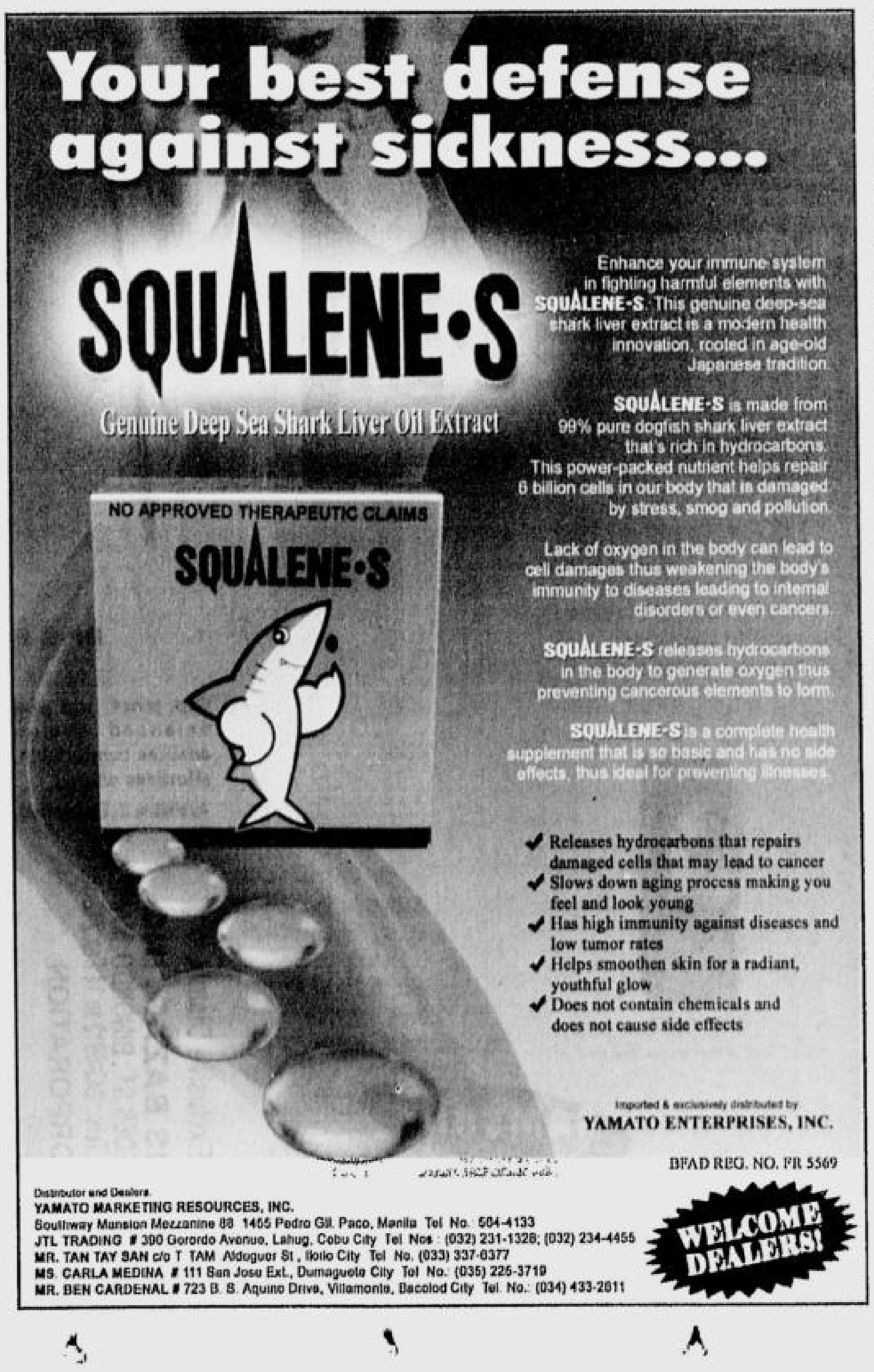

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 28, 2006
Ascension of the Lord

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

He was lifted up

In the first part of my work, Theophilus, I wrote of all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he ascended to heaven.

But first he had instructed through the Holy Spirit the apostles he had chosen. After his passion, he presented himself to them, giving many signs that he was alive; over a period of 40 days he appeared to them and taught them concerning the kingdom of God. Once when he had been eating with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the fulfillment of the Father's promise about which I have spoken to you: John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit within a few days."

When they had come together, they asked him, "Is it now that you will restore the Kingdom of Israel?" And he answered, "It is not for you to know the time and the steps that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the earth."

After Jesus said this, he was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight. While they were still looking up to heaven where he went, suddenly, two men dressed in white stood beside them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will return in the same way as you have seen him go there."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 (or 4:13 or 4:1-7, 11-13)

At God's right hand

May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of Glory, reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you may know him.

May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God.

May you know how great is the inheritance, the glory, God sets apart for his saints; may you understand with what extraordinary power he acts in favor of us who believe.

He revealed his almighty power in Christ when he raised him from the dead and had him sit at his right hand in heaven, far above all rule, power, authority, dominion, or any other supernatural force that could be named, not only in this world but in the world to come as well.

Thus has God put all things under the feet of Christ and set him above all things, as head of the Church which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Jesus' exaltation

Jesus said, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; the one who refuses to believe will be condemned. Signs like these will accompany those who have believed: in my Name they will cast out demons and speak new languages; they will pick up snakes and, if they drink anything poisonous, they will be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will be healed."

So then, after speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his place at the right hand of God. The Eleven went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied them.

Commentary

We return to the beginning of Acts to celebrate the Ascension of the crucified and risen Jesus instructing the believers to wait and receive the Spirit together as he disappears from their sight (he does not leave us). It is time to wait together to be baptized with the Spirit, not as individuals, but as the Body of Christ in the world. We are told that we are witnesses and other questions we might have will not be answered. We are to stick to the core—the heart of the Word of God. This is wisdom: to know Jesus and the power of God in Jesus. The whole world is waiting for this wisdom but we must wait for the Spirit to fill us with God's power and word.

More evictions from Fort Boni next weekend

By Luige A. del Puerto

MORE EVICTIONS of retired soldiers from the Bonifacio Naval Station in Taguig have been set for the end of this week, but Navy officials say they expect the procedure to be more peaceful than last week's tumultuous operation, which took more than 1,000 armed soldiers to dislodge 56 retired top brass from quarters they no longer were entitled to.

"I don't think it would be as difficult," Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said in an interview, pointing out that both the naval authorities and evictees have learned from the operations last May 20-21.

The Navy's chief, Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, assured the 115 retired enlisted men ordered to leave their apartments at the station's Married Enlisted Men Quarters (MEQ) that "maximum tolerance" would be employed on Friday.

Malabanan said the overstaying retired soldiers had been given seven days' notice to pack up their belongings and leave. The eviction notice was delivered to them on Thursday.

Rear Adm. Abraham Abesamis, chair of the Navy's Housing Board, said the evictions were necessary to deal with a housing shortage for active-duty officers and men who have been forced to rent homes off-base by the refusal of retired personnel to vacate their quarters. In effect, the retirees were enjoying subsidized housing intended for active soldiers, he said.

The MEQ has a total of 225 housing units intended for enlisted personnel. Only 103 active personnel live in the complex as the 122 other units are occupied by retired personnel, eight of whom are already dead.

Only 115 were served eviction notices because seven had obtained a court injunctions, the Navy said.

The Navy said soldiers awarded occupancy rights are required by contracts to vacate their quarters upon retirement or discharge from the service, but this rule has not been strictly enforced until now.

The Navy claims that the 115 evictees have unpaid electricity, water, and rental bills amounting to P6.5 million.

The evictees are to be provided with trucks to move their belongings.

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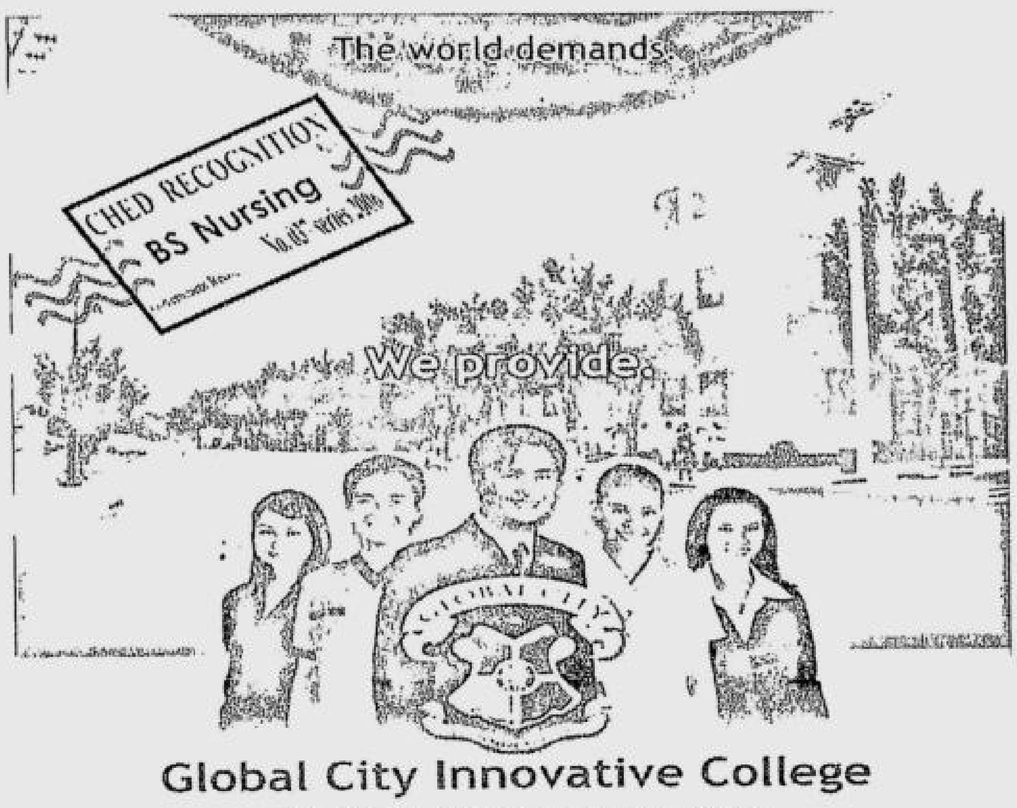

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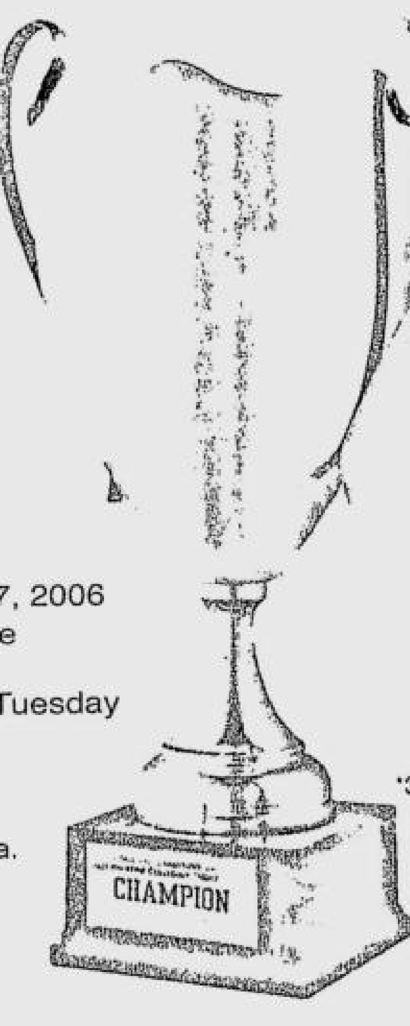

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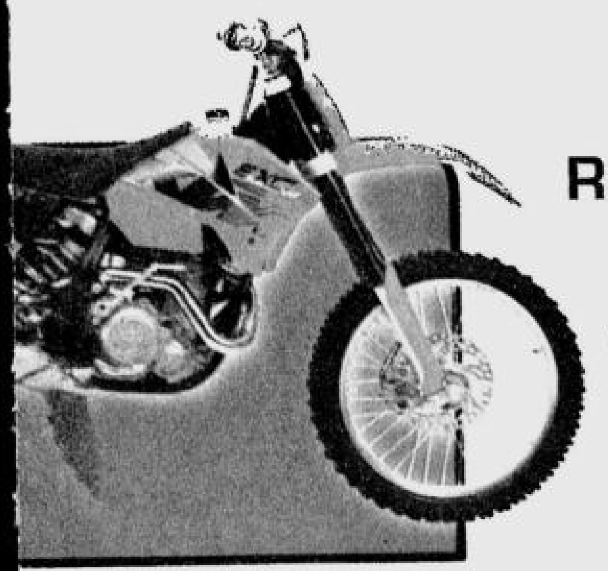

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Security blanket

EDITORIAL

WE THINK THE GENTLEMEN DOTH PROTEST too much. In explaining the new security arrangement the Philippines and the United States have just entered into, US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop emphasized its origins. The new Security Engagement Board was a Philippine initiative, he said, which will "provide a clearer framework for consultations and planning to address non-traditional security concerns."

Apparently, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz wanted to stress the same thing. A news story the other day reported: "Both Romulo and Cruz stressed that the establishment of the SEB was a pioneering initiative of the Philippines in the area of defense and security cooperation. They added the mechanism was seen as an emerging model for bilateral cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues."

So far so clear, except that (but for a suitable transition and a couple of synonym-changes) the exact same paragraph is borrowed from the US Embassy's press release: "Both Romulo and Cruz emphasized that the establishment of the SEB is a pioneering initiative of the Philippines in the area of defense and security cooperation. It is seen as an emerging model for bilateral cooperation in addressing non-traditional security concerns." (The release is available on the embassy website.)

What gives? Did either Romulo or Cruz in fact say that the idea originated with Manila? Substantively, it really shouldn't matter—except when we are faced with the consequences of the fallacy of emphasis. In the same way that the Saudi king's decision to release hundreds of Filipino detainees a few weeks ago cannot be fully understood if Saudi Arabia's royal and national interests are ignored, the new bilateral security arrangement cannot be fully understood if American interests are not weighed and sorted and taken into account. It bears repeating: It is national interests that drive diplomatic initiatives.

We are afraid that an over-emphasis on the new arrangement's provenance obscures the very real security interests that have led the United States to enter into the arrangement in the first place.

The Bush administration's focus on the war on terror helps make sense of the new security framework; but perhaps it is China's rising military profile in Asia that explains US cooperation best.

In the year or so that the new security cooperation framework was being negotiated, China's military intentions have dominated US defense planning. Only last February, for instance, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld released his Quadrennial Defense Review, a long-term planning template that specifically identified the so-called China threat (and used it to justify major defense spending).

Let us say it was really the Arroyo administration that made the first move; this does not mean that the decision of the Bush administration to enter into the arrangement is a recognition of our first-mover advantage. (There is none.) The decision is an acknowledgment of the Pentagon's reading of security issues—no more, no less.

We can expect our "emerging model for bilateral cooperation" to be replicated in other parts of Asia, as the United States seeks to counter rising Chinese influence in the region.

One aspect of the new arrangement is especially worrying; we find that the scope of security concerns is defined too generously.

Consider the comment of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita (essentially the official who runs the executive branch and himself a former defense secretary). When it was his turn to face the media, he displayed a rather loose or more expansive understanding of the terms of the new "institutional framework."

In his view, the scope of "non-traditional security threats" that require American cooperation—the subject of the new arrangement—includes not only terrorism and transnational crime (for example, money laundering); not only maritime safety and natural and man-made disasters (we wonder: when did natural disasters become a security concern?); but also espionage and graft and corruption. Perhaps, he forgot election fraud?

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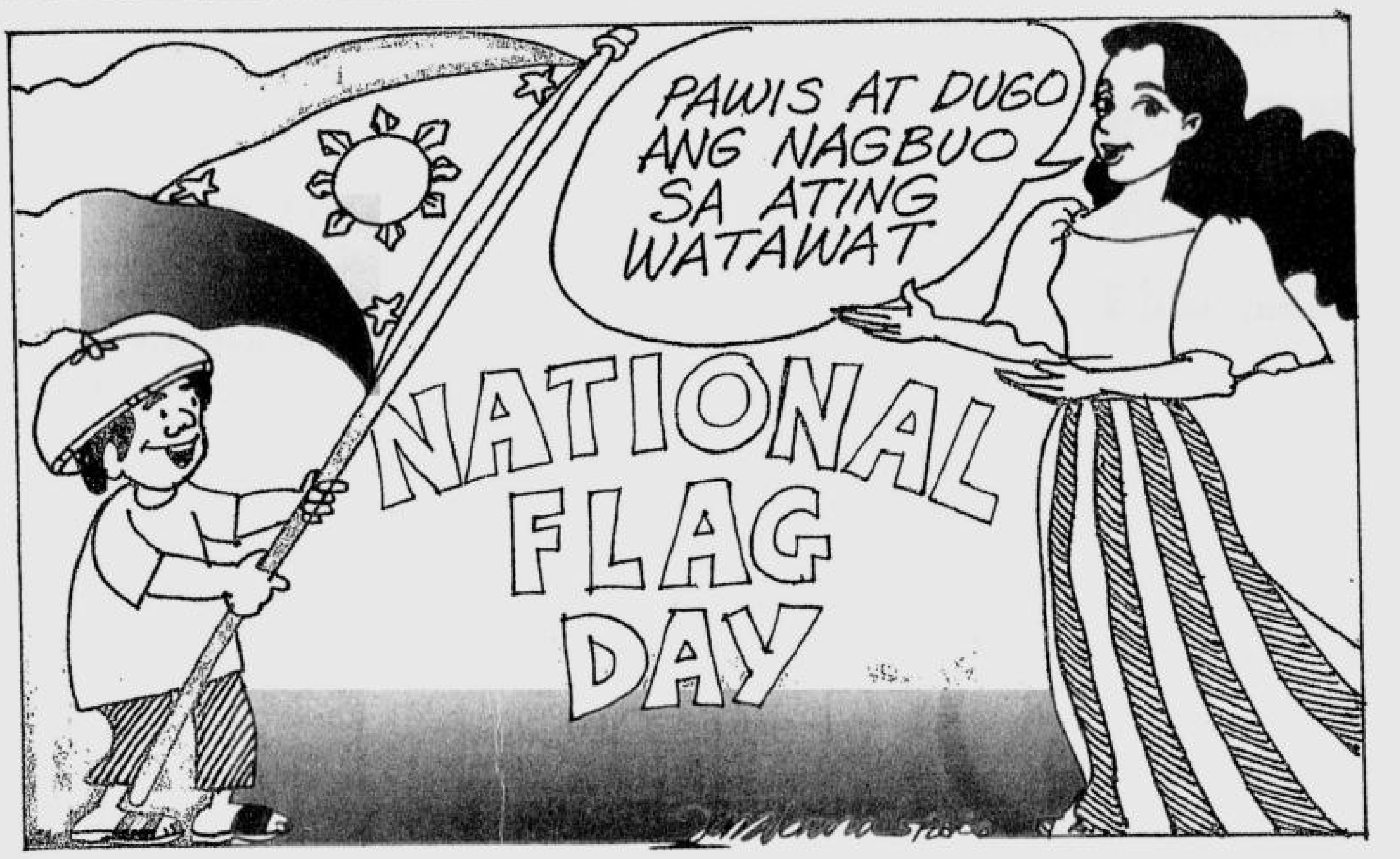
PAWIS AT DUGO ANG NAGBUO SA ATING WATAWAT
NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Should we dance?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE ADVOCATES OF THE CHA-CHA ARE SO desperate to push it through by hook or by crook, mostly by crook, that those opposed to it must exert their own honest efforts to defeat it. If we just stand by idly and do nothing while our Constitution is desecrated, we will have only ourselves to blame for not protecting our children's future.

The Constitution as the supreme law of the land should be treated with respect. It is normally recognized as "firm and immovable, like a mountain amidst the strife of storms or a rock in the ocean amidst the raging of the waves." It should not be manipulated like a municipal ordinance, or even a statute, to suit changing fancies, personal ambitions, or political infatuations.

This is not to say that the Constitution is immutable with the sacred untouchability of the Ten Commandments. As a human handiwork, it has imperfections that only time and experience will reveal. The nation's life is not static but dynamic and the Constitution must change with it instead of fettering the future with past rules no longer concordant with the present. It is for such reasons that the permanence of the Constitution must yield to re-examination and modification as the national interest may require.

Like many students of the law, I have suggested a number of changes in the Constitution to make it more responsive to the needs of the changing times or repair defects in its concepts and provisions that have not satisfied the people's expectations.

In a speech I delivered some years ago before the IBP and the Philippine Law Association, I suggested a number of changes in our paramount law that I felt would make it a more effective instrument for the enhancement of the common welfare. I did so not as a malignant fault-finder seeking public acclaim like many of our egoistic leaders but as a humble citizen offering to help in the charting of a better destiny for our country.

It is in this capacity that I reiterate my stand against the Cha-cha that, by its name alone, trivializes a solemn democratic function and degrades it to a frivolous dance. But it is not its name, of course, that provokes my principal disapproval. There are many more valid reasons why I do not and will not support the Cha-cha.

The first and strongest argument against it is Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. As the foremost proponent of the Cha-cha, she is also its worst opponent. Her title as President of the Philippines is under serious question because of the Garci tapes issue that refuses to die despite her efforts to suppress it. The invalidation of EO 464 and PP 1017 by the Supreme Court is among the many black marks of her administration. Her popular support has steadily declined as the problems of the country she has failed to solve continue to escalate. Many people believe that her real objective as the lead dancer of the Cha-cha is to remain in office by overhauling the Constitution she has violated.

Her partner in the choreographed conspiracy is Jose de Venecia, who is no graceful shuffler either. He is the head of the House of Representatives that is the pliant annex of the supposed Palace of the People. His promise to the easily beguiled is of an automatically sanitized government once the parliamentary system is established with him as prime minister. Like GMA, his real purpose is to remain in public office at the cost of no less than the defacement of the present Constitution. Having been roundly rejected in the 1998 presidential elections, he hopes to realize his impossible ambition by skulking through the back door of Malacañang.

The Gloria-De Venecia storm troopers are the sachems of the Rainbow Coalition, barefaced protectors of the pork barrel and despoilers of public funds for their personal benefit. They are the pushy barkers of the Cha-cha because of its immoral lure to extend their term of office to 2010 without re-election as required by the Constitution they would mangle. To achieve this scheme, they are now directing a nation-wide collection of bogus signatures to be verified by the corrupt Commission on Elections as a genuine compliance with the vote requirements of the still unimplemented initiative.

A major obstacle to the Cha-cha dreadnought is the Senate, which is determined to stop it on its tracks for an also personal reason. The proposed revision—the Cha-cha calls it a mere amendment—would abolish the Senate with the establishment of a unicameral Parliament consisting, ominously, of the shady members of the House of Representatives. The senators will not take their mass execution in meek submission. They will valiantly resist it like the heroes of Tirad Pass.

The initiative being employed by the Cha-cha is allowed to amend, not revise, the Constitution, but that is another story that will wait for a fuller discussion. Let me just state for the nonce that regardless of the merits of the changes it proposes, and the personal motives of its apologists, it must be effected in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Article XVII of the Constitution it is plotting to demolish.

Should we dance the awkward Cha-cha? It's a preposterous officiousness that deserves our contempt and rejection.

Stand up!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TEACHER who told his class: "If you think you are stupid, please stand up!" After a few moments of silence, a little boy stood up.

"Do you think you are stupid?" the teacher asked.

"Not really ma'am. I just hate to see you standing there alone," the student replied.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 16, 15-20), we are told that when the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, He was not standing alone. His disciples were around Him as He gave them His final instructions—to stand for Him in the world, and to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. We all must stand up for Christ, and stand for Him wherever we go, wherever we are.

* * *

There is an interesting story about a gunman who barged into a church one Sunday morning during the services, and then he called out: "Those of you here who are willing to die for Christ, step forward!"

Most of the faithful ran out in panic, but a few, too scared and stiff, stayed behind. Then the gunman said: "All right, Father. The hypocrites are gone. Now you may start the Mass."

What if you were in that church? What if you were the priest in that church? Would you have run away?

* * *

Speaking of gunmen, an international military pilgrimage was held at Lourdes last week. Seeing so many soldiers in different uniforms, I thought at first that there was a coup in progress. But the soldiers were there to stand up for the Gospel value of peace, to be a sign that, indeed, soldiers can be and should be instruments of peace. They carried no guns with them—only smiles and some rosaries. For three days, Lourdes was prayerful and festive with praying pilgrims and soldiers, complete with marching military bands. What a beautiful sight it was! I'm sure it made the Father smile up in heaven above. All because of a humble, simple woman named Mary, who stood up and appealed to the world for peace.

* * *

There is always a big crowd in Lourdes, but somehow, one is never lost in the crowd, for everyone who goes to Lourdes goes there for a personal reason, called by a Mother and sent with a mission, not for herself, but for her Son Jesus. Lourdes should not be seen just as a destination, but also as a place where one is commissioned in a special way to go to the whole world and preach, and share the Gospel to every creature.

* * *

One person who stood out in our recent pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje is Teresa Loja, a 29-year-old doctor of medicine who has lupus and multiple sclerosis. This mother of four children was a real inspiration to the whole group with her courage and determination. Frail but strong-willed, Tess prayed the rosary on her knees, facing the apparition chapel. She completed the arduous two-hour ascent to the Kriscevac mountain in Medjugorje. At Lourdes, she lined up for hours and was able to do the bath, and she literally stood out for all of us when she led the whole international crowd in reciting the Hail Mary's in Filipino during the evening rosary.

* * *

Another person who stood out in our group was former Pampanga Vice Gov. Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, who was a silent witness to the Gospel values of truth, humility, service and joy, precisely because she chose to be small and hidden. She did not say much, but the few times she spoke, the group really listened.

They say little who love much, so a saying goes. Oftentimes, we speak much when we say nothing at all, for, as another saying goes, actions speak louder than words.

* * *

The Ascension is all about letting go. Those who do not let go of their negative emotions and excessive attachments to things, and even to people, travel heavy and end up burdened in this life. We all can live beautiful, meaningful and happy lives if we learn the lesson of letting go, and that of letting God.

* * *

Here are some realizations that I, Ella Sanchez, Chito Basilio, Joe Castro and the other pilgrims learned after we finished our two-hour ascent to Mt. Kriscevac. The realizations are also very good reminders for us in the road of life: travel light, stay focused, one step at a time; it's not a matter of speed but perseverance; it is necessary to pause from time to time; have a clear sense of direction and a firm decision; you don't travel alone, God is with you on the road; the road may be old, but the path you make is your own; something beautiful awaits you, so you must go on.

* * *

It is time for us to stand up for Jesus amid the many lies and deceptions. Read "The Da Vinci Hoax" written by Carl Olson and Sandra Missel, and watch "The Da Vinci Code Deception" to be aired today on ABC at 10 p.m. These will help us see what is fact and what is fiction.

* * *

See you at the Pentecost Rally on June 3, to be held at the Baguio Convention Center. Yes, let us open wide our hearts to the Holy Spirit and pray for a New Pentecost in our hearts and in our land.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, as you have always stood for me, help me to stand up for you. Amen.

Crime does not pay . . . in America

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, AFTER ONLY A FOUR-MONTH trial, one of the greatest corporate scandals in history came to an end. Enron Corporation founder and chair Kenneth Lay was convicted of six counts of conspiracy and fraud. He now faces a maximum penalty of 45 years in prison. Enron's CEO, Jeffrey Skilling, was found guilty of conspiracy, fraud, insider trading and making false statements, crimes that all together carry a possible penalty of 185 years in jail. It is very likely that both will spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

At its height, Enron was the seventh-largest company in the United States. From a small pipeline business, it became an international powerhouse in the global business community, gaining political clout by supporting mainly Republican candidates, including the Bush family. Lay was one of the biggest donors to the Bush campaign and was referred to by the President as "Kenny Boy."

Because of Enron's collapse in 2001, hundreds of its employees lost not only their jobs but also their savings as its stocks plummeted to zero value.

Federal prosecutors praised the verdict and declared that the decision sent a clear message that no one was above the law. Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty said: "Our criminal laws will be enforced just as vigorously against corporate executives, as with street criminals."

This is not the first time US corporate executives have been convicted and sent to prison for fraud or misappropriation of company funds.

In June 2005, Dennis Kozlowski, former CEO of Tyco International, was convicted of fraud amounting to more than $400 million and grand larceny involving $150 million in unauthorized bonuses. He was notorious for his extravagant lifestyle which included $6,000-shower curtains for his New York City apartment. On the occasion of his wife's 40th birthday, he threw an extravagant party on the Italian isle of Sardinia, featuring an ice sculpture of the statue of David urinating Stolichnaya vodka. His company, Tyco International, footed $1 million—half the bill—for the birthday bash.

Kozlowski was sentenced to eight years, four months to 25 years in prison.

The convictions of the high and mighty by US courts have not been limited to corporate executives.

George Homer Ryan was the Republican governor of Illinois from 1999 to 2003. He first gained national prominence when he declared a moratorium on the death penalty. He noted that "I still believe the death penalty is a proper response to heinous crimes, but I want to make sure that the person put to death is absolutely guilty." On Jan. 11, 2003, just days before leaving office, Ryan commuted to life terms the sentences of everyone on Illinois' Death Row—a total of 167 convicts.

His term as governor was marked by scandals, involving the illegal sale of government licenses, contracts and leases by state employees during his prior service as Illinois' secretary of state. One investigation revealed a scheme in which unqualified truck drivers were able to secure licenses through bribes.

In late 2005, Ryan was indicted on charges of racketeering and bribery. Last month, he was found guilty on all counts. Sentencing is set for August and Ryan faces up to 20 years in prison.

Another prominent government official facing imprisonment is former Republican Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham, from California's 50th Congressional District. Cunningham pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to commit bribery, mail fraud, wire fraud and tax evasion.

During the Vietnam War, Cunningham, flying an F-4 Phantom from aircraft carriers, became the first Navy ace with five confirmed "kills"—meaning, he shot down five enemy planes. He was one of the most highly decorated US Navy pilots, receiving one Navy Cross, two Silver Stars and 15 Air Medals.

Cunningham was sentenced to eight years, four months in prison and ordered to pay $1.8 million in restitution. Despite his guilty plea, Cunningham will still receive a government pension for 21 years of Navy service and almost 15 years in Congress. A bill was recently introduced by Sen. John Kerry, preventing convicted lawmakers from collecting their pensions.

* * *

The question has often been asked why Filipinos living abroad are law-abiding citizens, faithfully observing and following the rules and regulations of their adopted countries.

The answer is quite simple. In countries like the United States and Canada where many of our people have migrated, the laws are implemented and strictly enforced. No one is above the law, and as indicated by the examples just mentioned, the wealthy corporate executive, the powerful governor, or the influential congressman, is not beyond the reach of the criminal justice system. In America, the Lady is truly blind—rich or poor, weak or powerful, if one violates the law, he or she must be prepared to pay the price.

Here in our country, the only influential or powerful or rich people who go to jail are those convicted of rape and murder—Mayor Sanchez of Calauan, Laguna, the Cebuano rapists of the Chiong sisters, and Rep. Romeo Jalosjos. Fraud, bribery, corruption are crimes reserved for the small fry who cannot afford well-connected lawyers or big payoffs.

We do not need Charter change to speed up the passage of more legislation. We have enough laws on the books. What is needed is the proper implementation, and the strict and impartial enforcement of existing laws. And we would have attained our objective of upholding the rule of law and moving the country forward.

Designated caregivers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE NOVEL "LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE," author Laura Esquivel has for her central character Tita, the youngest of three daughters who is forbidden to marry or bear a child because she is under obligation to look after her mother, Mama Elena, until the older woman's death.

Tita is more or less resigned to her fate—until she falls in love with Pedro, who in turn marries an older sister of Tita's if only to be around the woman he really loves.

"Like Water for Chocolate" has been described as a work of Mexican magic-realism, combining elements of the realistic and fantastic (like Tita's tears falling into the food she's cooking and causing everyone who partakes of the meal to feel sick and sorrowful). But Filipinos (and Mexicans, too, I suppose) didn't find Tita's fate as her mother's designated caregiver unrealistic at all. We all have one such sibling in our families, one who, out of choice or circumstance, becomes primarily responsible for the care of aging parents. Usually, that responsibility falls on a daughter, and in many cases, on an unmarried daughter.

That's so in the case of a friend I shall call "Mary," the eldest sibling in a large family, who until her father's death at the age of 84 last year had been taking care of him through his battles with a kidney ailment.

While tears threaten to fall when I ask her what looking after her father had entailed, Mary says she has no regrets about those years spent taking care of him and dealing with his doctors and caregivers. "I feel grateful for that time," she says quietly, "for it allowed me to get to know him better and show him that I loved him."

* * *

WHEN she called to tell me her story, Mary was concerned not just with her personal circumstances but with what other women in similar situations were going through. She had fallen into a depression, feeling alone and isolated, until she met a casual acquaintance and found herself spilling everything about the past two years, just before and just after her father's death. When Mary was through, she was caught off-guard by what her friend told her: "You're not unique. So many other single women are going through what you're experiencing now."

Before her father, a lawyer, fell ill, Mary enjoyed a carefree "single's" life. She had worked in a succession of government agencies until, tiring of the bureaucracy, she decided to join the private sector. When the business failed, her father, aging and ailing by then, asked Mary if she could help him look after his affairs. By then, many of his clients had been "inherited" by her lawyer-brother, but Mary was assigned the task of looking after their real estate business, dealing with tenants and administering the rentals of their properties. She had also managed to buy "a small lot in Fairview" with her savings.

* * *

"WHILE my father was alive, I didn't hear anything, no questions about our finances, or about my father's health, from my siblings," recounts Mary. "They were perfectly happy to leave most of the caretaking to me and my mother." When her father was hospitalized, confined first at the ICU and then in a private room, it was Mary who stayed by his bedside, with her siblings paying visits "only when we called for them."

When her father passed away, Mary, emotionally drained and grieving, felt numb and removed from reality. At the wake, her friends commented how she seemed to have been sidelined, how, even if she was the eldest child, her younger brothers and sisters took over the funeral preparations.

It was also around this time that her siblings, especially her lawyer-brother and his wife, began badgering her about the family's properties. With her mother still alive, there was no question about inheritance or dividing up the family's assets. But suddenly, her siblings began contesting her for "control" of the properties, and questioning Mary's role as administrator.

The issue came to a head about a week after her father's funeral when her sister-in-law dropped by the family home and began berating Mary for "talking behind my back." Mary refused to take the bait and, seeing that their quarrel was beginning to affect her mother, decided to call the village security office, demanding that they remove an "interloper" from the premises. "What did you just call me?" her sister-in-law demanded, whereupon she began choking Mary and hitting her head with a clenched fist.

* * *

MARY'S mother intervened and her sister-in-law left, but Mary decided to have the incident "blottered" at the nearby police station, determined not to sweep the violence under the rug.

There have been no physical assaults since, but the "psychological war," as Mary puts it, continues. "It's clear they want me to break down so they can gain control of the family business," she says bitterly. Though she went through a period of depression, for which she sought counseling, Mary is holding on. Meanwhile, her brother is accusing her of mishandling her father's properties, even claiming that the lot in Fairview should be considered part of the family's assets.

When I ask about her other siblings, Mary sighs and says that "they're all keeping a neutral stance, though my brother has been promising them that they'll get their rightful share once I'm out of the way."

What Mary wants to know is if there's any way to address the problems, including violence at the hands of siblings and other relatives, faced by women like her—single women who've devoted much of their life to look after aging parents.

"Now I know how a battered wife feels," says Mary ruefully. "But I also feel that somehow, the public has forgotten all about women like us."

To be a priest

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MY PARENTS' IDEA OF FULFILLMENT WAS TO see all their children finish college and become successful professionals. That made them typical Filipino parents. But, in addition, my mother's idea of parental achievement included having a priest for a son. That made her a typical Kapampangan mother. After my father died, she imagined keeping house for her son at his parish, and listening to all his homilies.

We were not poor, but my parents did not believe in family planning. In the beginning, my father's standard quip, "cheaper by the dozen," seemed sensible. Food was cheap and the public schools were free. My parents dreamed of sending all 13 of their children to Manila for college. This wasn't easy on a government employee's salary.

Perhaps, if I had a sense of the economics of raising a huge family, I would have volunteered, as the eldest of the children, to enter the seminary. For many provincial boys, the priesthood was the surest, if not the only, route to a good education. Many rich people were willing to sponsor the formation of a priest.

I did well in grade school, and our parish priest saw in me the signs of a priestly vocation. But I did not feel called to the priesthood. Soon he turned to my younger brother Nestor, who also showed little interest. The archdiocese of our province had opened a new seminary in San Fernando, and the pressure on my parents to contribute a son to the Church became strong. The third boy in the family, the quiet Isaac, finally agreed to try it out. After only a week, the seminary sent him home. In embarrassment, my father volunteered his fourth son, Dante, as replacement. He, too, did not last. The fifth, Pedro Jr., seemed more engrossed in play than in prayer that my parents finally gave up.

Pablo, the sixth boy, was so young and small that nobody thought of him. No one had noticed the contemplative spirit that was welling up in the little boy. Four sisters sandwiched him in the sequence of births, and so they naturally regarded him as one of them. This gentle spirit became my mother's favorite. One day, he told her that he wanted to be a priest, and she wasn't at all surprised.

Ambo was not yet in his teens when he left home and entered the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary. From there, he proceeded to the Jesuit-run San Jose in the Ateneo campus, finishing his philosophy and theology. He was ordained in 1983. Twelve years separate us; I am the eldest and he is the 10th.

In the martial law years, like many young priests and nuns, he became involved in the organizing of peasants in Central Luzon. His bishop must have worried about him; he sent him to Jerusalem and Louvain for further studies. He came home seven years later with a doctorate in Scriptures.

Ambo has since spent all his life teaching, forming young seminarians, leading Bible study groups, giving retreats, and, in the last three years, bringing the Gospel closer to the people through television. Through "Men of Light," a weekly program on cable TV and directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Ambo and fellow priests Fr. Raul de los Santos and Fr. Deo Galang take up the week's Gospel-reading and use it as a lens by which to see the problems of daily living. Yesterday, Ambo finally got his life-long wish—a parish of his own, the Lord's Ascension Parish in San Fernando.

Ambo is a much sought-after speaker. But when I asked him whom the priests have invited to speak to the entire clergy of Pampanga when they went on a retreat recently, he said "one of the very best of our biblical exegetes," Fr. Broderick Pabillo. I know that name.

Father Pabillo is the parish priest of the St. Ezequiel Moreno parish in the outskirts of Puerto Princesa. He runs a dormitory school there for the children of the poor from the outlying mountain communities. Two years ago, my daughter Jika quit her job in a multinational company to work as a Math teacher and dorm mother in this unique school. She quickly became a disciple of this priest who lives among the poor and draws his theology from them.

Father Pabillo was rector and theology professor in the Salesian seminary in Parañaque for many years. This was what his postgraduate training at the Biblicum in Rome had prepared him for. In the secure and comfortable surroundings of the seminary, he felt something missing. He longed for a parish, where he could be with the poorest of God's children. His friends could not understand him when he left his congregation to go to Palawan to serve as a diocesan priest. The parish in Macarascas covers the main church that he built, and 28 other smaller chapels scattered in the mountains and far-flung islands. He celebrates Mass in each one of them at least once a month, traveling by boat, on foot, and by a battered motorbike.

In 2005, Father Pabillo was asked to give the keynote speech at a national conference of priests. He said: "I cannot as a priest but be poor. It is in being poor that we can better live out our vocation and be more effective in our ministry. People can see Christ better in us and can have a clearer idea of who Jesus really is if we are poor priests." His brother priests rose to their feet when he ended and gave him a standing ovation.

A few days ago, Pope Benedict XVI named Fr. Broderick Pabillo the new auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Manila. And now by a happy coincidence, I have just learned of my brother's appointment as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Fernando. I am sure neither one of them wished to be anything more than to be a parish priest.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

A Filipino tragedy

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

KUNIA, HAWAII—OF ALL THE STATES IN THE UNITED States, Hawaii consistently receives the highest number of Filipinos with immigrant visas every year. At least 4,000 Filipinos, many of them already with relatives in the state, intend to make Hawaii their permanent home.

Many are still pursuing the American Dream, whose mystique has faded but still remains a powerful pull factor in international migration. This is the notion that America, of all possible foreign destinations, is still the land of opportunity, and if you work hard enough, you will be rewarded in terms of being able to own a home, having an education, landing a job and eventually becoming successful in life.

But for others, opportunity turns into nightmare, sometimes ending in death. This was what happened to four Filipino immigrant families in rural Honolulu recently. Their lives will never be the same following the tragic death of their loved ones—who were either a mother, wife, sister, aunt or some relation to the families.

The tragedy happened on a treacherous two-lane highway in Kunia, a rural district of Honolulu, known as "the last plantation." The four women were thrown off the pick-up truck that they were riding on one early morning on their way to work. The truck driver suddenly swerved to avoid colliding with an oncoming car; instead he ran smack into another vehicle, a concrete-mixing truck. The accident made headline news in Honolulu as one of the county's worst traffic accidents in history.

This killer road has been the scene of many motor accidents mostly involving personnel in a nearby military base. The driver of the sedan who caused the accident was believed to be a civilian employee in that base and has been arrested after fleeing the scene. He was last seen entering the base where he is reportedly employed.

Just a few months ago, another Filipino family, the Manzanos of Vintar, Ilocos Norte—a father and his two sons—were all killed on this same highway in a deadly collision while they were on their way to visit relatives. The sad thing was that the two sons had just arrived from the Philippines, after having waited years for their green cards.

The four women in the latest accident were among the many Filipinos who have come in recent years to work on farms. They picked tomatoes for a living. Coincidentally, Filipinos in Hawaii are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the 15 *sakadas* (farmworkers) in 1906 to work on the sugar plantations.

The women who were killed instantly were: Aquilina Polendey, 57; Ana Sacalamitao, 46; Lorna Laroco, 53; and Gertrudis Montano, 59. Eight others who were riding on the truck, some of whom were also thrown off, survived. There is a law prohibiting passengers from riding on the back of pick-up trucks, but it applies only to children under 12 years of age.

Interesting is the fact that more and more women have been coming to Hawaii in recent years to join relatives or to search for jobs. The earlier migration waves from the Philippines, especially during the plantation era before World War II, were predominantly men, whose wives and other family members were left behind while they worked for years and—for very low pay—in sugarcane and pineapple fields.

Aquilina, mother of five, sometimes worked seven days a week since 1999, according to her son. Her husband Ricardo said the most painful thing he'd ever experienced was to identify the body of his wife at the office of the Honolulu medical examiner. "I could not sleep and could not eat," he sobbed. "I don't know, I don't know."

Aquilina's son Rex said his mother unfortunately would not see one of her dreams: to move to a home in Manila, where her four other daughters live, upon her retirement.

Gertrudis held her family together, said Zacarias, her grieving spouse of 40 years, who also admitted that he does not know what to do now. He is in poor health. "My wife was a good wife," he recalled to reporter Loren Moreno of the Honolulu Advertiser. "She was the one taking care of me. I am in pain," he continued referring to a lifelong ailment. He and his wife emigrated from Laoag, Ilocos Norte in 2000. Their son said he could not recognize his mother's badly mangled body in the morgue. She was identified only because of her wedding ring.

Ana was from Quirino province, where her body was returned to. Her brother-in-law, Isidro Agbayani, said Ana was just promoted to the rank of supervisor in the farm. And she was so happy over this promotion. As in the case of most extended Filipino families, she lived with her sister and brother-in-law, and she also had a twin sister. They are all in shock.

Lorna lived in Ewa Beach, another heavily Filipino district, but members of her family had not been contacted as of this writing. She was only in her early 50s.

Larry Jefts Farms, the employer of the four women workers, has not made a statement to the media. In recent years, sugarcane and pineapple plantation areas had been converted either into real estate subdivisions or private farms that grow fruits and vegetables, mostly for local consumption. In addition to Filipino workers, recent immigrants from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are also employed by farming industries. They work long hours for little pay. Because most recent immigrants coming to Hawaii are in the low-skilled category, the only jobs available to them are those in the rural communities like Kunia.

The plantation era in Hawaii may have ended but its vestiges, like cheap labor, long hours and low pay, remain.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

THEY SAID

Dirty mayors

"Only dumb mayors need dumpsites. Show me a dirty city/municipality and I will show you a dirty mayor."

—Linamon, Lanao del Norte Mayor Cherlito Macas' new political slogan after the success of the solid waste management program in his place

Generational theft

"To use and overuse the earth's supply today is like stealing from the mouths of your grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They and their needs were also in the mind of God when He created this earth."

—Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said in his homily during the Earth Day celebration

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.
Guest Editor Manuel L. Quezon III

The desire for land and water

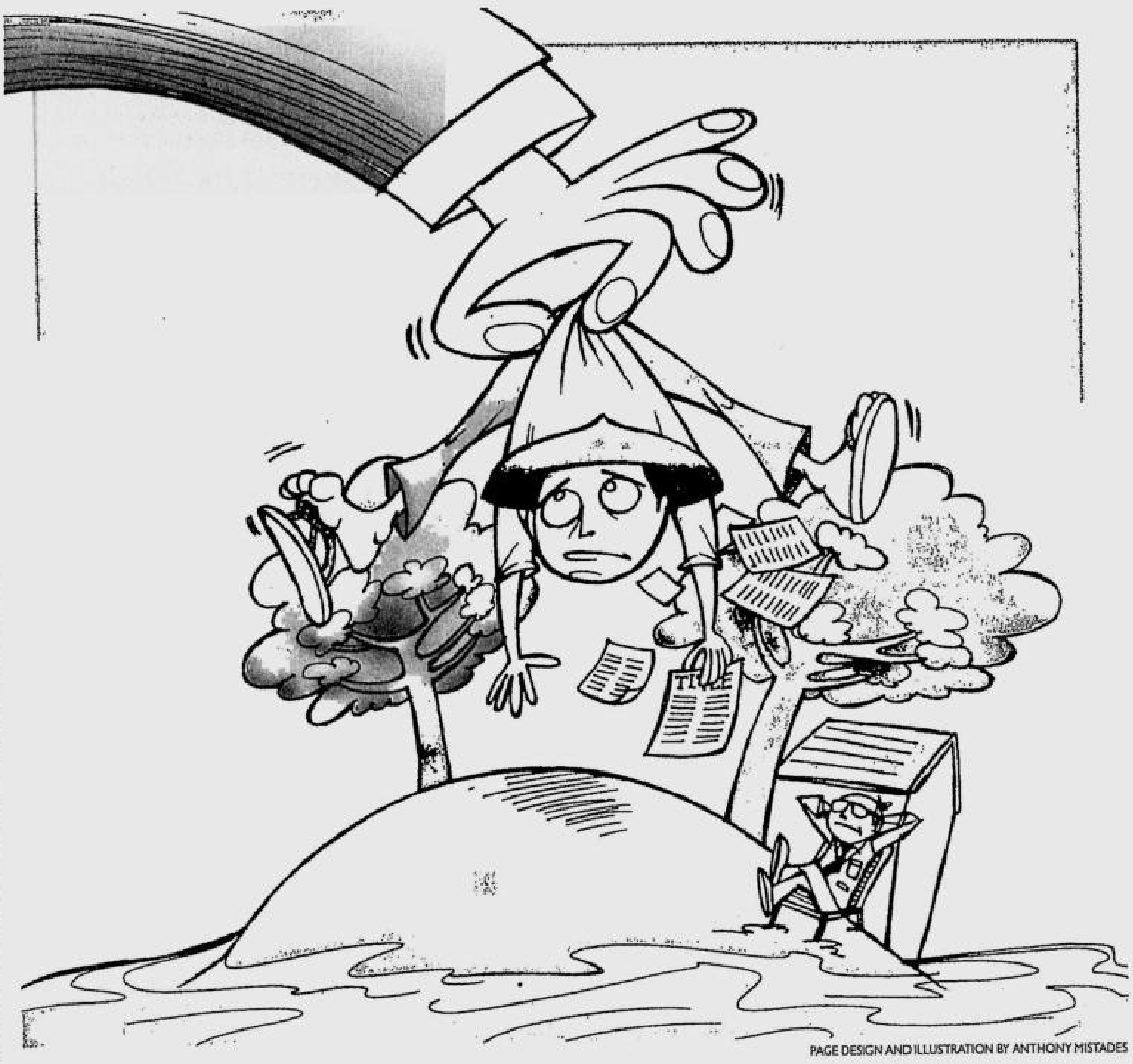
FOR 38 YEARS, THEY'VE BEEN EXPECTING LAND TO CALL THEIR OWN. Through a collective bargaining agreement between the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (Nawasa)—now the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS)—and two Nawasa unions, KKMK-Nawasa (Kaisahan at Kapatiran ng Mga Manggagawa sa Nawasa) and Bela (Balara Employees and Laborers Association), the state waterworks employees were given a promise of land. On June 18, 1968, Nawasa segregated and set aside the disputed area as the initial site of the proposed housing project for its workers and employees. Six months later, the Nawasa conducted a raffle to determine whom among its employees and workers would be allowed to purchase housing units. After the raffle, the Nawasa named the 1,411 awardees. The Supreme Court in *Sergio M. Isada vs Judge Juan L. Bocar, et al.* (G.R. No. L-33535, Jan. 17, 1975) sustained the validity and enforceability of the rights of the land awardees over the property. But the original site (environmentally sound, as it was located downstream from the reservoir) was turned into a filtration plant upon the orders of President Marcos, and the presently disputed site (environmentally controversial, as it's downstream) identified.

News that the housing site was finally going to be parceled out led to opposition. Calling itself the "Save the La Mesa Dam Coalition," those opposing anchors its objection to the housing project on the basis of a study conducted by the UP National Hydraulic Research Center. The study concluded that regardless of any abatement and safety procedures, the danger of water contamination to the La Mesa Dam remains if the housing project pushes through. As the La Mesa Dam supplies the potable water for the millions of inhabitants of Metro Manila, the construction of the housing project poses a serious long-term threat to the health of people. The result is a generations-old claim, versus the environmental interests of future generations.—*MLQIII*

La Mesa Dam quick facts

- La Mesa Watershed covers 2,700 hectares (2,000 ha of forest lands and 700 ha of reservoir/lake). It is the last forest of its size in Metro Manila and is centrally located. It straddle's Quezon City, Caloocan City and Rizal Province. The climate in the area is wet (June-October) and dry (November to May). Planting season starts in June and ends in August.
- It is a vital link to the water requirements of 12 million residents of Metro Manila considering that 1.5 million liters of water pass through this reservoir everyday.
- Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), a government corporation, is the owner-manager of La Mesa forest. Currently, MWSS lacks expertise in watershed management, which is essential in ensuring the life of the reservoir. It entered into a memorandum of understanding with ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. to jointly develop and manage the Watershed and Nature Park. The master plan includes management, protection and development of La Mesa for a renewable period of 15 years. MWSS takes charge of security, informal settler relocation and perimeter wall reconstruction. ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.-Bantay Kalikasan's responsibilities include management, development, reforestation, protection, environmental education and nature park management along with marketing and fund raising. *Compiled by PDI Research*

SOURCE: WWW.LAMESAECOPARK.COM



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Watersheds and survival

By Valerio Mendoza

THE HUMAN BODY AND THE EARTH BOTH comprise 75 percent water. This emphasizes the importance of water for the survival of humans and all living things. Likewise, plants need water and soil to survive. As human population increases worldwide, the demand for water correspondingly increases to meet domestic, industry, agriculture, power generation, drinking and many other requirements. This is true for Metro Manila where its 12 million residents depend on the La Mesa Watershed for various water needs.

A few decades ago, there were live and clear rivers in most parts of the Philippines. Rainfall patterns were regular and predictable where forests were intact. Science has shown that lush forests induce rainfall. They influence the condensation process in the water cycle.

The forests in catchments, otherwise known as watersheds, intercept rainfall, thus minimizing the scouring effects of the rain. Healthy forests in the watersheds hasten water infiltration into the soil to recharge aquifers that feed springs, ensuring continuous flow of water throughout the year.

The fallen leaves, branches and logs on the forest floor we call litter acts like a sponge, absorbing significant amounts of water, that otherwise would gush down mountains, causing erosion and flooding in the lowlands.

Forests in watersheds prevents soil erosion, hastens infiltration, fixes carbon dioxide and many other greenhouse gases (GHG). The forests in the watersheds thus modify local temperature.

Actually the forests act as the lungs of the metropolis, the reservoir of a genetic pool for our biodiversity. Forests are excellent sites for recreation and education.

It is always essential that forests are protected and managed in the watersheds so that we'll have a functional, diverse, stable and productive ecosystem for the benefit of humans.

(Mendoza is the La Mesa Watershed specialist for Bantay Kalikasan.)

When tribes clash

By Marvin B. Aceron

THE CONTROVERSY ON THE housing project in the La Mesa Dam watershed is a conflict among interest groups or like a war among tribes. One group wants to build their houses in the La Mesa Dam area. The other group wants to keep La Mesa uninhabited to protect the water in the dam from pollution. Each group is asserting a legal right, which, on its own, may stand in court.

Awardees vs environmentalists

The land awardees comprise the principal interest group. Their claim dates back to 1968, confirmed by the Supreme Court in 1975. The environmentalists compose the second group. The environmentalist group anchors its objection to the housing project on the basis of a study conducted by the UP National Hydraulic Research Center. The study concluded there's the danger of water contamination in the La Mesa Dam remains if the housing project pushes through.

Legal turf

The land awardees and the environmentalists have tried to bring the debate to their own legal turf. The land awardees' legal turf, on one hand, is the law on obligations and contracts. Considering that the Supreme Court has decided on the enforceability of the contract between the awardees and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) as far back as 1975, the MWSS appears to have no legal way out of this 1968 agreement.

The question, however, is whether the environmentalists and the general public may be bound by the contract and the Supreme Court decision in which they were not a party. The MWSS may find salvation in the principle of civil law that a change in circumstances not contemplated at the time of the agreement can be a basis for one party to terminate the contract or excuse in the fulfillment of its obligation. Article 1266 of the New Civil Code states that "(t)he debtor in obligations to do shall also be released when the prestation becomes legally or physically impossible without the fault of the obligor." Thus, the change in environmental laws may be a valid excuse to terminate contract.

The legal turf of the environmentalists, on the other hand, is environmental law, which requires an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) before any construction project can proceed. The ECC is signed by the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or the regional executive director of the DENR certifying, among others, that based on the representations of the project proponent, as reviewed and validated by the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee (EIARC), the proposed project or undertaking won't have a significant negative environmental impact.

News accounts have it that DENR has previously issued the ECC to MWSS, although this has been contradicted by other reports. Still, there appears to be no ruling that will prevent the DENR from denying the issuance of an ECC or withdrawing an ECC, if one has already been issued. Faced with the UP report expressing a serious objection to the project, the DENR may find it difficult to justify the issuance of an ECC to the project.

VIP housing

The debates have been emotional at times with the land awardees portraying the dispute as one between the rich and the poor. The land awardees cry that they have been singled out in this controversy because of their poverty. However, an adverse ruling by the DENR on the project's ECC will apply equally to the housing projects of both employees and executives. The DENR may stop the use of the existing housing projects of the MWSS executives should it decide to withdraw the ECC issued to the executive housing project.

Roadmap to resolution

The dispute may soon find its way on the desk of the secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and thereafter the president of the Philippines (represented by the executive secretary) on the propriety of the issuance of the ECC to the housing project. Existing decisions of the Supreme Court require that before any administrative dispute is brought to the courts, the parties should exhaust all the administrative remedies. Thus, neither side may bring the case to the courts until the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Executive Secretary has ruled on the issue.

Thereafter, the courts will have to balance the contrasting rights invoked by the parties. Resolving the controversy depends on how the courts will appreciate the UP report.

It is uncertain how long it will take for the courts to decide on the case. On the average, it could take three years for a dispute to reach the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has a mandate to decide cases within two years from the time the last pleading is filed.

Government intervention

While the groups fight it out before the media and the courts, a third force could intervene. This is the national government.

It could intervene by declaring of the La Mesa Dam and surrounding areas a protected area. Sec. Angelo Reyes of DENR has mentioned in some reports that the La Mesa Dam is a protected area as defined in the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) under Republic Act No. 7586. Under the Nipas, a protected area refers to identified portions of land and water, set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, and managed by the Protected Area Management Board to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation. Other reports, however, have contradicted the Secretary, and said that the La Mesa Dam has not yet been declared as a protected area. Nonetheless, the Nipas law has laid down the procedure under which a portion of land and water may be declared a protected area by Congress. In the interim, the President may issue a proclamation designating the recommended areas as protected areas and providing for measures for their protection until such time when Congress enacts a law finally declaring La Mesa part of the integrated protected area systems.

The other way to intervene, which has not been mentioned in the debates, but which might be worth considering, is for the exercise of the power of expropriation. Under the power of expropriation, the State may take private property and use it for a public purpose upon payment of just compensation. Thus, the government may expropriate the property set aside for the housing project and pay the awardees compensation based on the present appraised value of the land. This is notwithstanding that the land awardees acquired the property for a mere P5.50 per sq m in 1968. Expropriation will ensure that the land awardees will obtain the equivalent value of the land that has been awarded to them, and at the same time keep the watershed from being infiltrated by threats of pollution from inhabitants.

(Aceron is a partner of Guerrero & Aceron Law Office. He regularly blogs at La Vida lawyer, http://mbaceron.agalaw.net.)

Legal issues in the La Mesa Dam controversy

By Noel Punzalan

1. HOW DOES THE LAW HANDLE A case where people have waited 38 years for land that modern environmental laws says shouldn't be used for housing?

The principle of *rebus sic stantibus* states that a fundamental change in circumstances not contemplated at the time of the agreement can lead to the termination of a contract or at the very least, excuse the fulfillment of the obligations therein.

In the La Mesa Dam issue, the change in environmental laws is a valid excuse to terminate/rescind the contract. When after 38 years, environmental laws change making housing units therein illegal, Article 1266 of the Civil Code applies. It states:

Art. 1266. The debtor in obligations to do shall also be released when the prestation becomes legally or physically impossible without the fault of the obligor.

Of course, MWSS may be released from the obligation to sell it to the claimants. But the mutually acceptable solution is the substitution of the area to some other legally and environmentally acceptable property.

2. How does the existing VIP housing affect the claim?

On the one hand, the existing VIP houses can always claim rights have already vested upon them, so they cannot be evicted there anymore.

However, the State can always exercise its police power to eject them.

Police power, one of the powers of the State (aside from eminent domain and taxation), is that which allows the state to "trample" on people's rights to life, liberty and property for the sake of public welfare, public good, public morals, etc.

In the case at bar, the State is well within its rights to "confiscate" the residential properties within the La Mesa dam and evict persons therein in the name of police power.

The safest path to assert this is through legislation, be it through ordinance or statute. By a legislated declaration of the area as protected and the prohibition of any residential buildings therein, there will be legal basis to evict existing residents there.

And unlike eminent domain (expropriation), the eviction of the residents, will not be subject to just compensation, if this power is invoked.

3. Is it ethical for a congressman to represent the claimants?

From a purely legal standpoint, present laws do not prohibit members of the legislature to advocate private interests.

Section 14, Article VI of the Constitution states:

No Senator or Member of the House of Representatives may personally appear as counsel before any court of justice or before the Electoral Tribunals, or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies. Neither shall he, directly or indirectly, be interested financially in any contract with, or in any franchise or special privilege granted by the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including any government-owned or controlled corporation, or its subsidiary, during his term of office. He shall not intervene in any matter before any office of the Government for his pecuniary benefit or where he may be called upon to act on account of his office.

Hence, a lawmaker is only prohibited from intervening in activities in relation to his present government office. Here, the issue is arguable unrelated to his public functions as a lawmaker.

But he cannot, under any circumstance, personally appear as counsel in any court of justice or before the Electoral Tribunals, or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies. If that lawmaker has a law firm, that firm may enter such appearance for the residents/claimants. That lawmaker, however, cannot appear personally.

If he appears in talk shows and issues statements championing the cause of the La Mesa Dam residents/beneficiaries, he is still legally within his rights.

So far, the lawmaker in question committed to no transgression from a purely legal and ethical standpoint.

Appearing as an "anti-environmentalist," however, surely hurt his political/electoral standing.

4. How to balance rights of residents/beneficiaries against the right to clean water.

Public safety and environmental issues, however, would weigh heavily against mere proprietary rights of the residents/beneficiaries of the La Mesa Dam Housing Project.

As stated above, public safety is a perfect reason to invoke the State's police power.

(Punzalan is a solo practicing lawyer based in QC. He blogs at http://thepunziblog.blogspot.com.)

Villar favors compassion, house arrest for Erap

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SIX YEARS AFTER HE BECAME the first Speaker to impeach a President in Philippine history, Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar is batting for compassion for the man he helped boot out of Malacañang.

For Villar, five years in detention is enough time for former President Joseph Estrada to be granted his request for house arrest, other humanitarian gestures and opportunity to reconcile with his successor President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"For me five years is enough. *Mabigat na yan!* (That's hard enough)," Villar said in a recent phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Still under trial for plunder, Estrada was first detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City before he was transferred to the privacy and comforts of his sprawling mountain resort in Tanay, Rizal, where he is currently under detention.

Villar sees "no problem" if the 69-year-old Estrada were to be granted his long-standing request to be detained at his house in San Juan, his political bailiwick, while awaiting the outcome of his historic plunder case.

Villar also endorses the back-channel efforts to bring about reconciliation between Estrada and Ms Arroyo, who herself has been battling questions of legitimacy and alleged plots to oust her from office.

At the forefront of this reconciliation effort is Bro. Mariano "Mike" Velarde, leader of the five-million strong Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai.

For Villar, these things could be done without prejudice to the ongoing plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan.

Testifying last week before the antigraft court, Estrada admitted signing bank documents as Jose Velarde but denied the account was his. The discovery of the Jose Velarde account, which was said to have contained P3.2 billion, practically sealed Estrada's fate in the Senate impeachment trial although it was aborted when senators allied with him refused to open a second envelope containing more bank documents.

ESTRADA

VILLAR

"I'm not saying it's up to us to forgive him or not but while he is not yet convicted, I see no problem if we give him maximum leeway (in his detention)," Villar said.

"I'm not interfering with the judiciary. It's up to the court if he will be convicted or not," the senator said.

Estrada and his loyalists have been a constant thorn to Malacañang. This week, five Estrada supporters were abducted by heavily armed men who turned out to be agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. After initially denying the five were in its custody, the AFP later admitted making the arrests, saying the five were plotting to assassinate at least five members of the Arroyo cabinet.

Ms Arroyo has often acknowledged that Estrada still commands the loyalty of the Filipino masses and earlier agreed to his house arrest but some of her security officials suspect Estrada was behind attempts to oust her.

Villar's softening on Estrada came nearly six years since his remarkable feat on Nov. 13, 2000 when he outmaneuvered Estrada's allies at the House of Representatives, who were determined to block the transmission of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial, by declaring it transmitted at the end of his opening prayer.

This set off the aborted Senate trial, which eventually led to the Edsa People Power II that drove Estrada out of Malacañang and swept his vice president, Ms Arroyo, to power.

Villar's role soured his relations with Estrada and his loyalists supposedly tried to campaign against Villar in the 2001 senatorial election. But the savvy real estate billionaire went on to become a senator.

But for Villar the 2000 impeachment was all behind him and Estrada.

"I hope the feeling is mutual but I have no reason to doubt that it is now OK (between us)," Villar said.

Villar reluctantly admitted he had visited Estrada twice, saying it was Estrada himself who had disclosed this to the media.

"Our meetings were very sincere," Villar said, saying there was no need for apologies.

Villar, recently dubbed by Asiaweek Magazine as worth about $4 billion with his real estate flagship company C&P Homes, is the Senate-president-in-waiting.

He is set to become the country's third highest ranking official at the start of the third session of the 13th Congress in July under a gentleman's agreement with Senate President Franklin Drilon.

'CLOSURE'

Palace set to pay Piatco P3B to get Naia 3 going

By Armand N. Nocum

TO ENSURE THAT THE MOTHballed Naia Terminal 3 is operating by the time President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address in July, Malacañang has relented and is now prepared to pay the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. an initial P3 billion for the disputed facility.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Palace officials agreed on this at a meeting last Thursday, noting that the move would also strengthen the government's claim to the multibillion-peso airport facility which it took over in 2004 but has been unable to operate because of overlapping ownership and payments claims.

"We want to put closure to this Piatco thing because the longer we refuse to release payments, the weaker our case in the international arbitration becomes," Gonzalez said.

"The President's strategy is to have the airport under operation while the strategy of lawyers is to win the case. But it takes a long time to do that, so the lawyers must coordinate their strategy. The longer you don't operate it, the whole thing deteriorates further," he said.

Piatco, the Chinese Filipino-led consortium that won the right to build the facility but whose contract was voided by the Supreme Court in 2002, went to court demanding compensation of between $350 million and $550 million before the government can be allowed to operate the facility.

The Pasay Regional Trial Court in 2005 ordered the government to pay Piatco and initial P3 billion. The Supreme Court upheld the lower court's decision earlier this year.

The decision to pay the P3 billion is a complete turn-around for the government which had questioned the court decision, arguing that turning the money over to Piatco might open the government to action from other payments claims such as those of Fraport, the German investor that owns the majority stake in Piatco, and the Japanese-based contractor and suppliers.

Gonzalez said that to ensure that payment is made to the other parties involved in the construction of the airport, the government would make it a condition for the release of the money that Piatco turn over the payments to Fraport and the two Japanese firms, Takenaka Corp., the principal builder, and Asahikosan Corp., the main supplier of the airport.

Gonzalez said the decision to pay Piatco would strengthen the government's position in fighting the cases related to the disputed terminal before two international arbitration courts.

Fraport filed a $425-million claim against the Philippines in 2003 before a World Bank arbitration court in Washington.

In a separate suit, Piatco asked a Singapore-based international arbitration court to order the government to compensate the company $525 million for its investments.

"The international arbitration always asks us: 'What are you fighting for, you don't even own the place,'" said Gonzalez.

He said that Palace officials weighed the various issues and agreed that whatever initial payment may be made, it would be very much less than the value of the property.

"So if you make that initial payment, we assume control [of the property]," he said.

"What is important is to have control, that was the consensus," he said.

Those who attended the meeting were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, Naia General Manager Alfonso Cusi and Palace lawyers.

Following the takeover, Gonzalez said the government would be able to bring in an "international inspection" group to determine the actual cost of the terminal's construction.

Last December, former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo had warned that the government could lose the P3 billion should it comply with the court order to make the initial payment to Piatco.

Benipayo argued that the law says that "whatever just compensation is paid should be reserved for the settlement of obligations to preferred claimants who shall intervene and present evidence on their claims before the expropriation court."

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Name of Project/Brief Description	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of eight (8) units Banknote Counting Machine per BSP technical specifications
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Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 May 2006 – 22 June 2006 (up to 2:00PM only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	23 June 2006, 10:00AM
3. Opening of Bids	11 July 2006, 2:00PM
4. Bid Evaluation	)These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods)allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P880.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI - May 28, 2006)

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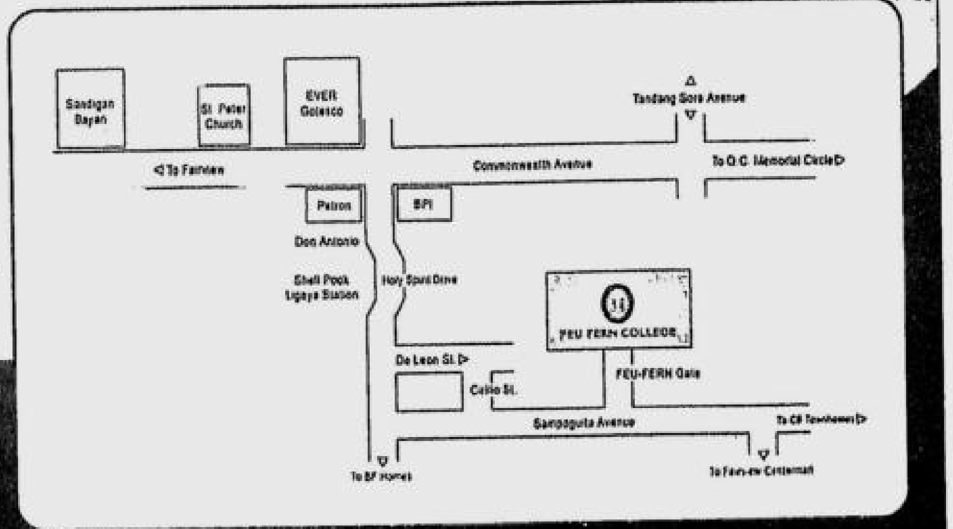

RP experience gives US model for beating terror

By The Associated Press

AN AMERICAN soldier assists a Filipino victim of a recent bomb explosion in Jolo.
US ARMY HANDOUT PHOTO

HONOLULU—WHEN US Army Col. James Linder talks about battles won in the war on terror, he doesn't list enemies killed and targets destroyed.

Instead, the commander of US Special Forces in the Philippines recounts jobs created and schools built.

"We just changed the dynamics of a very small community," Linder said, "from one in which only a few years ago, Abu Sayyaf was coming down from the hilltop with weapons on their back and recruiting the schoolchildren, to one in which they can't (go) there anymore."

Since 2002, US Army Rangers and Navy SEALs have been training and equipping Philippine troops to oust al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf terrorists from Mindanao, a largely poor area with a significant Muslim minority. Philippine and US military authorities have used a combination of combat offensives and development projects—with a heavy emphasis on the latter—to isolate the terrorists and win over local populations.

Their successes in villages like the one Linder described contrast sharply with the US-led effort in Iraq or Afghanistan, where terror attacks only seem to increase. And now, senior US military leaders say their work in the Philippines may offer lessons for how the US operates in the Middle East.

To be sure, circumstances in the Philippines are far different from Iraq or Afghanistan. Disparate cultures, history and geography would prevent any Philippine solution from being applied directly to either country.

US troops also do not themselves participate in combat in the Philippines. The US military initially wanted to fight but President Macapagal-Arroyo's shaky administration refused to gamble with the politically explosive prospect of foreign troops fighting domestic insurgents on Philippine soil.

Further, the US and Philippine militaries cannot take credit for all of Abu Sayyaf's failures. The group has marginalized itself by offending local populations with the use of tactics like beheadings, rape and torture.

Make a difference

But Linder, speaking on the sidelines of an antiterror conference in Hawaii, said his interactions with people on the island of Jolo show the troops are making a difference.

He recalls the visibly emotional woman who ran up to him because she wanted to show her gratitude for the sewing machine that has allowed her to earn a living. And the village leader who vowed to quit fighting for Abu Sayyaf and instead take up arms alongside Filipino soldiers against his former allies.

On Basilan island, where US troops first started operating four years ago, improved security has allowed the Philippine military to shrink its presence from 15 battalions to two, said Maj. Gen. David Fridovich, the commander of US Special Forces in the Pacific.

Fridovich said military operations are only 15 percent of what needs to be done. The rest is humanitarian, like Army engineers helping rebuild schools and military doctors giving residents shots. US aid workers have helped build bridges and roads.

"We think there is a model here that's worth showcasing. There's another way of doing business," Fridovich told reporters at the Pacific Area Special Operations Conference in Honolulu last month. "We've been doing it for four years with some decent results. Not grand results, not flashy results, but some decent results. We think it's worthwhile."

Rohan Gunaratna, head of terrorism research at the Singapore-based Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said the US has had "tremendous success" on Basilan. He added every American soldier should study what has happened there.

"The Americans did not take the shortcut in Basilan. They took the long road—that's working with civilians. Their priority was to build bridges with the Muslim public rather than hunt the terrorists," Gunaratna said.

Iraq only became so violent because US commanders focused too much energy on killing enemies when they should have done more to meet the basic needs of Iraqis, he said.

"The terrorists are also competing for the hearts and the minds of the people," Gunaratna said. "If you are able to do a better job, the terrorists are marginalized. No one will support the terrorists."

The US military effort in the Philippines has not been easy.

Protests

Nearly a dozen American troops died in a helicopter crash and a bomb attack in 2002. Muslim activists and residents have protested the US presence, calling it a magnet for violence and a violation of Philippine sovereignty.

A few hundred mountain-based guerrillas continue to threaten Jolo. In March, suspected Abu Sayyaf members bombed a grocery store on the southern island, killing nine people.

Washington and Manila, meanwhile, are deepening their partnership. On Wednesday, the two nations announced a new security arrangement expanding the grounds for American forces to stage exercises in the Philippines.

When asked if the Basilan experience was applicable to Iraq and Afghanistan, Gen. Bryan D. Brown, head of US Special Operations Command, said every culture and situation was different, but many lessons could be learned.

"It's about working with the people, it's about building the infrastructure, it's about demonstrating good governance," Brown told reporters at the Hawaii conference. "It's about good medical care, it's about eliminating human suffering."

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TOMORROW BEGINS IN THE EAST.

P260-M Intramuros project to finally start

By Jerome Aning

GORDON

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM WILL FINALLY start a long-delayed $5- million (P260-million) project to rebuild a missing portion of Intramuros or the Walled City known as the Maestranza.

The Maestranza, which used to stand on the Pasig River's southern bank and enclosed the Aduana or the Spanish-era customs house, was torn down in the early years of the American colonial period.

The Japanese government gave a $5-million grant for the Maestranza restoration project in September 2003 through the efforts of then Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

However, the project could not be started because of squatters in the area and legal constraints posed by legitimate lot owners. The problems were finally resolved early this year.

The reconstruction of the Maestranza is expected to finally start with DOT Secretary Joseph Ace Durano's creation last May 18 of a six-member bids and awards committee, chaired by Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab.

Meanwhile, the Walled City's caretaker, the Intramuros Administration (IA), had constructed, together with the Manila city government, a paved public park called Plaza Maestranza in the vicinity of the soon-to-be restored wall segment.

The Maestranza section, which protrudes into the Pasig's southern bank, derived its name from the government arsenal (maestranza in Spanish) that was built into and around the curtain wall.

Contrary to common belief, the Maestranza was not destroyed during the Second World War, but nearly half a century earlier—in 1903—during the early years of the American colonial era.

According to "Ciudad Murada (Walled City): A Walk Through Historic Intramuros," a guidebook co-published by IA, the Maestranza section was the first casualty of the Manila municipal council's decision to tear down the wall enclosing the district.

The council wanted the 4.5-km walls of the pentagonal fortress-city demolished "as they were ancient and a hindrance to city development," the guidebook's author Jose Victor Torres wrote.

Historical value

Torres said it was only through the intervention of "concerned citizens" that the destruction was stopped. The American architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham later stressed the preservation of the walls, which he said possessed historical and archaeological value.

Nevertheless, by 1904, the protruding Maestranza was dismantled, along with its major fortification, the Baluarte (bastion) de Santo Domingo, which was named after the nearby Santo Domingo Church and Convent.

Also demolished were the Almacenes Reales or Royal Warehouses, which used to hug the western part of the section and were first built in 1591 as storehouses for goods unloaded from the river wharves.

The Maestranza's two gates also disappeared: Puerta de Santo Domingo which led to its namesake church, and Puerta de Almacenes, which led to the Monasterio de Santa Clara.

A street within the walls called Maestranza, which was parallel to the curtain wall, also vanished when the wharves were constructed.

Later, the customs offices left the Aduana (Customs House) but other agencies such as the Intendencia General de Hacienda (Central Administration), the Treasury and the mint remained. The building became more popularly known as the Intendencia.

The area became a commercial zone until December 1941, the outbreak of World War II. Japanese bombs destroyed the Sto. Domingo church complex and heavily damaged the Intendencia.

During the Allied Liberation of Manila three years later, American artillery demolished what's left of the Intendencia, the Sta. Clara monastery and most of the buildings in the district.

One of the victorious Allied troops' entry points to Intramuros was the Maestranza gap. Without a wall to stop them, soldiers easily penetrated the wharf area following an amphibious assault.

New invaders

After the war came a different kind of invader—squatters, who for decades, occupied the Maestranza-Almacenes section and many parts of Intramuros.

Amid the urban blight, the Intendencia housed a succession of government offices and finally fell into disrepair. The squatters' colony grew and the remaining spaces that were not occupied became warehouses and parking areas for trucks or became part of the Magallanes Drive extension.

The last of the squatters were finally relocated early this year and Plaza Maestranza was built, completing the beautification of the Muelle del Rio (Riverside Drive). Some of the former residents were even given jobs as sweepers and vendors in the park.

Gordon said that once the Maestranza was rebuilt, both sides of the Pasig could be developed in earnest and transformed into something like the Clarke and Boat Quays in Singapore.

"It is my dream to see Intramuros become the center of the country's culture and history, celebrating its heritage from Catholic Spain, the United States and the Islamic world," Gordon said.

Carlos Celdran, who regularly conducts "walking tours" of Intramuros, was also pleased with the clearing and renovation of the Maestranza area.

"It's amazing how some paving bricks and flowering trees can alter a district's character," he wrote in his blog (celdrantours.blogspot.com). "And the result is not only cosmetic-positive, effects can be felt in different parts of the Walled City."

He added that although he thought Intramuros still lacked "a cohesive vision" for its progressive development, "this small but effective effort is definitely a step in the right direction."

Country's symbol

Gordon, Palabyab and other tourism officials had been pushing for Intramuros to be "the" man-made structure and "the" architectural symbol that foreigners can easily identify with in the Philippines.

They stressed that more than the jeepney, vinta or calesa, the Walled City—represented by one of its arched gates or bastions—was an easy name-recall for the Philippines, much like what Paris' Eiffel Tower does for France, the Sydney Opera House for Australia, Taj Mahal for India, Petronas Towers for Malaysia or the Statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro for Brazil.

MEDICard - Headstrong Philippines, Inc. Signing

Headstrong Philippines, Inc., a global consultancy delivering expertise across business processes and technology, recently signed the renewal of its healthcare agreement with MEDICard Philippines. (seated L-R) Headstrong's Nora Terrado (Country Manager), MEDICard's Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (President) and Headstrong's Bernard Berkenkotter IV (HR Manager). (standing L-R) MEDICard's Dr. Voltaire R. Victoria (Sales & Business Dev't. Mngr.) with Headstrong's Tet B. Bachini (HR Specialist) and Centrolink's Pia A. Reyes (Managing Director). Headstrong has been a valued MEDICard corporate client since 1998.

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It was on April 15, 1991 when the two-storey, ten-bed hospital Santiago Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Center was inaugurated. The simple institution aimed to offer the best and immediate medical service to the townsfolk of Santa Rosa and Cabuyao since during that time, the nearest possible place for medical treatment were Biñan and Calamba.

Santiago Medical Clinic & Diagnostic Center, intended for lying-in and emergency patients, received tremendous welcome from the community and became a "word of mouth" whenever there was a need for hospital services. The ever-growing prestige of the hospital spread out up to the industrial establishments around the vicinity. One by one, they sought the hospital's accreditation to avail of its facilities for the medical services of their employees.

In 1993, Santiago Medical Clinic & Diagnostic Center adopted a new name, St. James Hospital, Inc.

With the ever-growing demand for rooms and additional facilities and with the increasing number of patients coming in for medical services everyday, St. James Hospital started its expansion project in 1996. New equipments and hospital amenities were procured for the four-storey, 80-bed expansion.

With the advent of the new millennium, the new edifice of St. James Hospital now firmly stands to serve as a landmark of an old man's dream of his son to offer the best medical service to the community, rich and poor alike.

Five years from now, St. James Hospital, Inc., sees its major role in consonance with the urban development of Sta. Rosa, Laguna into one of the fast-rising cities in the Philippines.

St. James Hospital is equipped with modern facilities like diagnostic imaging, ancillary apparatus and laboratory services. We take pride in our medical staff from all fields of specialization. Our support staff, nurses and non-medical personnel have grown accustomed to working with each other as a team. This ensures prompt delivery of efficient medical care.

A modern 80-bed tertiary hospital, St. James is equipped with adequate facilities to treat major and minor ilnesses and injuries. Our surgical, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and administrative staff are well-trained to provide quality medical care.

Presently affiliated with over 15 Health Maintenance Organizations, the hospital has been a major referal center of industrial companies in the vicinity.

Attuned to the fast paced development in the locality, we have continued to upgrade and modernize our facilities to complement the changing needs of the community, Our wide range of services aim to provide the ancillary services necessary for both the therapeutic and diagnostic needs.

Vision/Mission Statement:

St. James Hospital is one of the prominent medical centers, which aims to furnish patients of every race, creed or nationality, medical, clinical and surgical attention and care.

Committed to maintain utmost quality health care through continuous improvement in our various services.

Maintains its highly-skilled medical and non-medical staff and administrative personnel in order to provide optimum services to its patients.

Aims to maintain the highest standard of Medical Pracitice.

St. James Hospital envisions itself to become a leading health care facility worthy of emulation.

Our Guiding Principles

- We shall embody our mission and vision in all our undertakings through the following principles:
- We continue to provide innovations in our available facilities.
- We provide an avenue of service that is conducive to the realization of the full potential of our health personnel.
- We create an environment that motivates a harmonious partnership between physicians and employees.
- We strive to be responsive to the municipality of Santa Rosa and work cooperatively with other health care organizations to provide the best service to our patients, physicians, employees and the general public.

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  *Treadmill Stress Test
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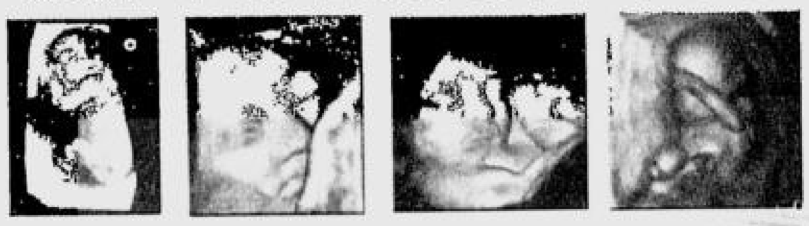

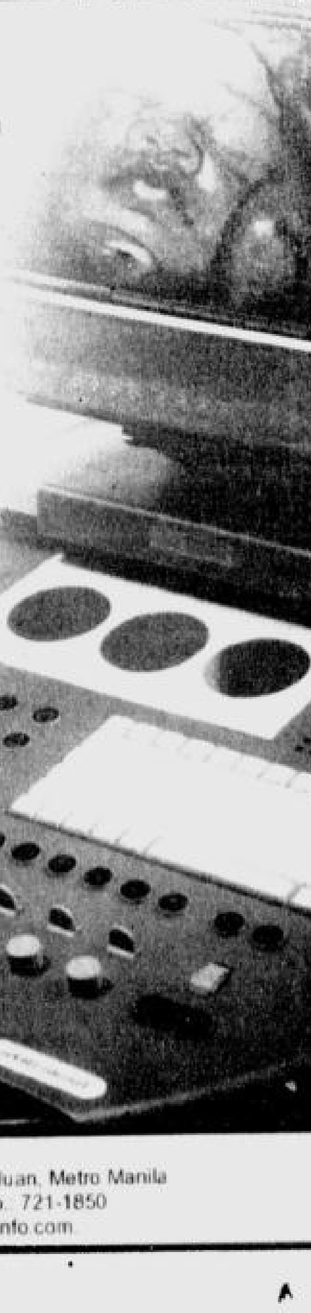

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Teachers warned vs unauthorized fees

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SOME 38,000 PRINCIPALS and teachers in Central Luzon's public elementary and high schools face insubordination charges if they collect unauthorized fees during the enrollment period, education officials in the region said on Friday.

Under Civil Service Commission rules, insubordination is considered a grave offense, which is a ground for dismissal from government, according to Mariza David, Department of Education regional legal officer.

During Friday's launch of the "Oplan Balik Eskwela" here, Dr. Magdalena Roque, chief of the DepEd regional secondary education division, said it was best for school officials and teachers to strictly comply with DepEd Order No. 22.

The order, signed by former Education Secretary Florencio Abad in 2005, reiterates government's mandate in providing free public education and gives guidelines on the collection of fees.

The order says students have the "right to enroll without being compelled to pay any amount as a requirement for enrollment."

Roque said students should only present their report cards or credentials during enrollment.

The order also clarifies that contributions to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Philippine National Red Cross and Anti-Tuberculosis Education and Fund Drive are "voluntary" and can be collected "any time during the year."

But reports received by the INQUIRER showed otherwise.

At the San Fernando Elementary School (SFES), for instance, all four items—P35 for the Red Cross, P10 for the BSP and GSP, and P5 for the Anti-TB program—were being collected during enrollment.

While the order prohibits teachers and other school personnel from collecting these, they were the ones doing the task for those organizations.

The school also collected P40 for the school paper and P5 each for guidance, clinic and library services.

The school publication fee was within the range set by DepEd, but this was also classified as voluntary.

At the SFES, it was also the teachers who collected and issued receipts for the P280 Parents-Teachers Association fee, some parents said. The PTA agreed on the amount, though.

Roque said division superintendents have informed principals and teachers about the administrative risks of violating the DepEd order on collection of various fees.

Parents, on the other hand, could go to division offices to report violations or file complaints.

While "Oplan Balik Eskwela" sets in place measures to make the opening of classes on June 5 "smooth and systematic," Roque said the DepEd regional office faces larger problems.

Enrollment was expected to grow to more than 1.2 million in the elementary schools and 543,789 in high schools. These require additional 821 elementary teachers and 1,705 high school teachers, according to DepEd estimates.

The region needs 1,159 more classrooms in the elementary and 3,966 others in high schools.

Roque said the growing number of transferees from private schools has increased the enrollment figures in public schools. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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2 civilians killed in NPA ambush

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—At least two civilians and a soldier were killed while five others were injured in an ambush staged by New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Prosperidad town early Friday, the military reported yesterday.

The ambush in Barangay San Jose was the second attack by the NPA in the province this week.

On Thursday afternoon, three militiamen and a village chieftain were wounded when the NPA ambushed government troops securing a mass wedding in Barangay Carmel in Bayugan town.

Two rebels were also killed in the ensuing clash, according to Lt. Col. Rolando Manalo, commander of the 23rd Infantry Battalion. *Chris Panganiban, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WINDOW DISPLAY EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A woman of Tinglayan, Kalinga is surrounded by different samples of g-strings which men of her tribe used to wear. The g-strings remain part of the community's festival uniforms, although no longer a day-to-day attire.

The Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.

FLU InfoBox

1 What are the symptoms of flu?

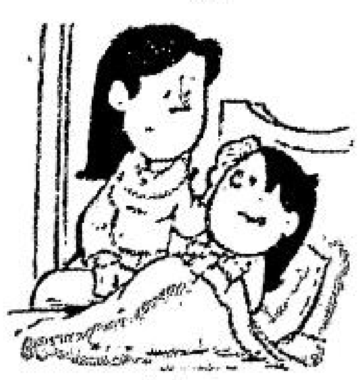
The symptoms of influenza include fever, headache, fatigue, and muscle pain; patients may also complain of dry cough, sore throat, and a runny or stuffy nose.

Are

Yes, both children and adults can catch the flu. Aside from the symptoms already mentioned above, stomach symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea can also occur, more common in children than in adults.

3 Is the flu the same as the common colds?

Influenza or flu is caused by influenza virus, while several other viruses are known to cause the common colds. Both diseases share many symptoms, and it can be difficult to tell one from the other based on the symptoms alone. In general, however, flu symptoms start suddenly and are worse than the common cold. Fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough are more common and intense in patients with flu. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalization.



4 According to our doctor, my child has flu. What can I give?

Children with flu should get plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids. Medications such as paracetamol can be given to relieve the fever and muscle aches associated with the flu. Aspirin should never be given to children and teenagers who have flu-like symptoms, particularly fever because this can lead to complications involving the liver

Your doctor may also prescribe antiviral medications to help treat the flu. Antiviral treatment lasts for 5 days and must be started within 2 days of illness to be effective.

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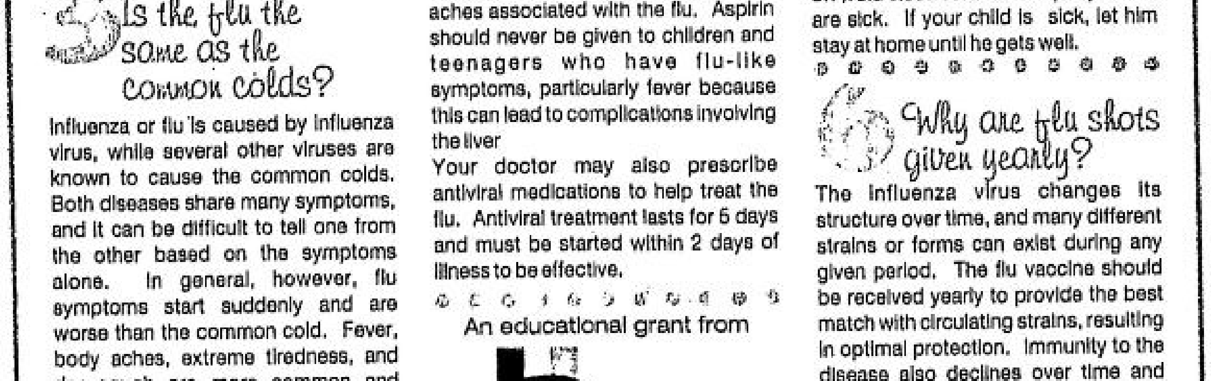
Influenza vaccination offers the single best way to protect yourself and others against the disease. In the Philippines, the Southern Hemisphere is recommended and is administered preferably between February to May, to provide maximal protection before the flu season sets in. Unlike other vaccines, the flu vaccine should be given yearly.

These additional steps may help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses such as the flu:

1. Ask your child to cover his or her nose and mouth when he coughs or sneezes.
2. Encourage them to wash their hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. If water is unavailable, an alcohol based hand cleanser may be used.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If your child is sick, let him stay at home until he gets well.

6 Why are flu shots given yearly?

The influenza virus changes its structure over time, and many different strains or forms can exist during any given period. The flu vaccine should be received yearly to provide the best match with circulating strains, resulting in optimal protection. Immunity to the disease also declines over time and may be too low to provide protection after one year, thus continued protection can only be reliably provided with yearly flu vaccination.



Hailstorms likely to hit Benguet again, says Pagasa

By Delmar Cariño
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE hailstorms that damaged vegetable farms in two Benguet towns this summer would not be the last as long as the weather gets hotter, an official of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) here said.

Joseph Rios, Pagasa's chief meteorological officer and senior weather specialist, said the province's topography and geographical location also contribute to the likely recurrence of hailstorms.

The trouble though, Rios said, is that Pagasa, for now, does not have the ability to forecast thunderstorms and hailstorms over a specific area or province.

Damages

Officials of Atok and Kibungan towns recently asked the Benguet provincial government to declare their towns under a state of calamity following three hailstorms this summer that damaged crops worth close to P50 million.

The storms happened on April 13, May 7 and May 9.

Pebble-sized hailstones, locally called "dalalo," pierced the leaves of growing vegetables.

"The natural terrain of the province and its location in relation to the China Sea make the province prone to hailstorms," Rios told the INQUIRER.

But he said the arrival of hailstones does not necessarily mean that these will come in succession and would be as strong as those that destroyed the crops of Atok and Kibungan recently.

"Hailstorms are not abnormal but they are extreme occurrences. They do happen but we do not know when," he said.

Intense heat

Rios said hailstones and hailstorms are likely to form and fall during April and May, considered the peak months of intense surface heat.

"Hailstones are aggregates of water particles formed in cumulunimbus clouds due to intense surface heat," he said.

He said the water that evaporates due to heat would be pushed upward the atmosphere by air, through a process called convection.

"When the water particles go beyond the atmosphere's freezing zone, they will accumulate and later drop downwards as hailstones," he said.

Reviewing the weather bureau's data, Rios said hailstones dropped on Atok and Kibungan towns because the weather then was really warm.

He said temperature in those towns hit 25.6 degrees Celsius on April 13, 26 degrees on May 7 and 25.4 degrees on May 9.

These records, he said, are considered "intensely warm" for Benguet, which is located at 1,500 meters above sea level.

No equipment

Rios said Pagasa could not warn farmers of an incoming hailstorm because the weather bureau is not equipped for the purpose.

"We have yet to install Doppler radars that could be used for micro-forecasting, or predicting rainfall on specific provinces or towns," he said.

SCHOOL BLUES BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
Parents and children get busy looking for affordable supplies for the coming school opening in a Davao City mall, a scene that is repeated elsewhere as the opening of classes draws near.

'Jueteng' stop in Isabela seen

ILAGAN, ISABELA—Officials here confirmed the stoppage of the illegal numbers game jueteng in the province, following almost a month of its revived operations.

Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes said bet collections stopped in various towns supposedly after a second team of special operatives was sent here by Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao.

"The issue became too hot. We just hope this (stoppage) is for good," Reyes said.

The cessation of jueteng activities here was confirmed Wednesday morning, Reyes said, after operators reportedly ordered the refund of bets collected for the Tuesday night draw.

"See? [The police] don't have to make a hundred raids or a thousand arrests of *kubradores* if they really wanted to stop jueteng," Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca said in a text message sent from the United States, where she is undergoing a three-week study tour.

Padaca earlier accused police officials of supposedly allowing the entry of jueteng operations.

She also dared the police led by Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley director, and Senior Supt. Oscar Fiesta, Isabela police director, to arrest one Jun Roque, whom she tagged as the alleged financier of jueteng operations here.

Padaca, however, was not about to declare victory.

"One day [without] jueteng is not enough for me. Make it one year; make it a lifetime. Then I will rejoice," she said.

The INQUIRER reached Soriano but he declined to issue a statement. He was attending a seminar in Kuala Lumpur.

Fiesta reiterated his statement that jueteng has not returned to the province. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

6 minors from Negros rescued from sex den

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—SIX MINORS from Negros Occidental who were forced into prostitution were rescued Friday from a nightclub in Barangay Madrangka, San Jose, Antique.

Bacolod Councilor Jocelle Batapa Sigue, who was part of a multi-agency team that conducted the rescue, said they raided the nightclub after a 17-year-old from this city escaped and reported what happened to her and her companions in Antique.

Another minor was found at the port of Iloilo and will join the six others in returning to Negros, Batapa-Sigue said.

The six minors, four from Bacolod City and two from Cadiz City, were rescued from a place formerly called "Area 51" and now known as the "Firehouse Night Club" in Barangay Madrangka.

There were 24 GROs (Guest Relations Officers) reportedly working in the club. The remaining GROs are from Iloilo, and San Carlos City and Talisay City in Negros Occidental, but they are all of legal age, reports said.

The rescue operation was headed by Supt. Cornelio Defensor, chief of the police regional Investigation and Intelligence Division, with representatives from the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The minors were recruited by a certain Alita and a certain Awu, investigators said.

Aimee Prado, the owner of Firehouse Nightclub, claimed it was Alita and a certain Au-Au who introduced the minors to her to work in her club.

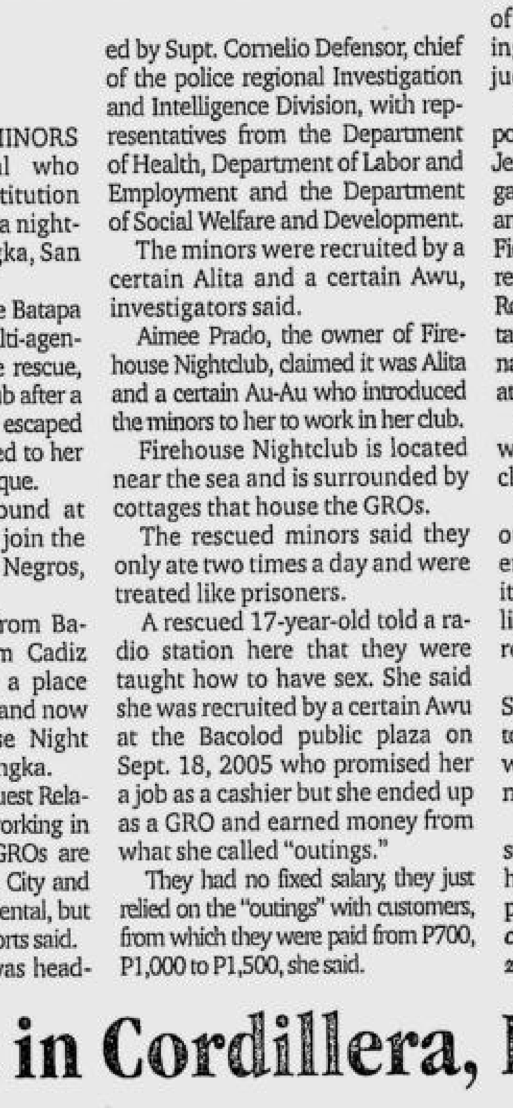
Firehouse Nightclub is located near the sea and is surrounded by cottages that house the GROs.

The rescued minors said they only ate two times a day and were treated like prisoners.

A rescued 17-year-old told a radio station here that they were taught how to have sex. She said she was recruited by a certain Awu at the Bacolod public plaza on Sept. 18, 2005 who promised her a job as a cashier but she ended up as a GRO and earned money from what she called "outings."

They had no fixed salary, they just relied on the "outings" with customers, from which they were paid from P700, P1,000 to P1,500, she said.

Cement in Cordillera, Ilocos overpriced, says city council



BAGUIO CITY—A bag of cement sold in this city and in some provinces in the Cordillera and the Ilocos reach consumers at a 100-percent price mark up by retailers, an investigation conducted by the city council showed.

Councilor Daniel Fariñas, chair of the council committee on market, trade and commerce, said from the plant, a bag of cement would only cost around P75, but when it reaches the market, the price would increase to between P175 and P200.

But Fariñas said consumers should not entirely blame retailers for the problem.

"Outlets should not be blamed. The small hardware owners are also victims. We are also here to protect them," Fariñas said in a forum here on Friday.

Aside from consumers, project contractors have also been hit by the steep prices of cement.

William Go, owner of Goldrich Construction, said the Department of Trade and Industry should closely monitor big business plants instead of retailers.

He said their research showed that a bag of cement costs only P70-P75, inclusive of raw materials and packaging costs.

A price monitoring submitted by Carmelita Usman, DTI director in Benguet, to Fariñas showed that the prevailing price of a bag of cement from Holcim Philippines Inc., a multinational company, is P170.

The breakdown of the cost production includes the plant price of P151; freight, P13; handling, P1; and a mark up of P5 per bag for retailers.

In a letter to DTI-Benguet, Joselito Cruz, acting regional head of the Holcim, said the price increase is "fair and reasonable."

"Cement manufacturing is a very capital-intensive business," he said.

Fariñas said the price increase is understandable due to freight cost.

But he said the rest of the production cost, especially on the use of raw materials, should not contribute too much to the increase since raw materials are available in the country.

"Now, what we really wanted to [find out] is why the actual price of cement [has doubled] when the actual production cost is only P70 per bag," he said.

He said if the problem on overpricing is not addressed,' a monopoly run by cement plants might dictate and control the prices of cement.

Fariñas said the price increase would impact on the implementation of social housing projects.

"How can a common government employee afford a housing [unit] if he or she cannot afford the high prices of cement?" Fariñas asked.

"No one will be able to afford to build houses anymore. A construction company will use up thousands of bags of cement for a single project," he said.

Go said local contractors support the government's low cost housing projects but the high price of cement remains a hindrance. *Desiree Caluza with a report from Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Rock concert calls for release of 'Punks 11'

BAGUIO CITY—PUNK ROCK GROUPS staged a free concert here on Saturday to call for the release of 11 youths who were arrested for their alleged involvement in the Feb. 10 raid on a military detachment Mankayan, Benguet, by communist rebels.

At least seven punk rock bands from Metro Manila, the cities of Davao and Cebu, and from Zambales, Bulacan, Tarlac and Pangasinan performed during the concert dubbed as "48 Hours of Noise Barrage for 'Punks 11'." The concert started at noon Saturday at the Sunshine Park here.

Jason Vergara, 25, one of the concert organizers, said the activity was aimed at drawing support for their calls to release the 11 members of various punk rock groups who were accused by the police of being members of the New People's Army.

"We want to show who [we are] and what we do in this concert. We are into music and we want to promote peace. We are not NPAs," Vergara told the INQUIRER.

Some members of punk rock groups have been staying in this city to follow the developments in the case of the "Punks 11," who were arrested in Buguias, Benguet, on Feb. 14. They were aboard a truck and were on their way to Sagada, Mt. Province, when arrested.

Earlier, the Cordillera Peoples Democratic Front denied the youths' involvement in the Mankayan raid, where two Army soldiers and a government militiaman were killed.

Simon Naogsan, CPDF spokesperson, said the police arrested the wrong people.

"We want to clarify that they are not NPA rebels, they are just ordinary kids who just wanted to enjoy the [Cordillera's] scenic places," Naogsan told the INQUIRER in telephone interview.

In an order on May 19, Judge Agapito Laoagan Jr. of the regional trial court in Buguias ruled that policemen had illegally arrested 11 youths, who include a 16-year-old girl from Marikina City and a 17-year-old boy from Pasig City.

Laoagan said police could not justify their warrantless arrest of the two minors and their nine friends, whose ages range from 18 to 25.

"They should all be released. We are holding this concert for their freedom. This is also the call of punk groups in other regions," said Bong Plano, a native of Montalban, Rizal. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

YOUTHS from around the country who belong to a punk music subculture congregated in Baguio on Saturday to produce a concert to celebrate the judgment of a Benguet court which found the arrest of 11 of their friends illegal. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Man faces trouble for cutting 100-year old mangrove tree

PAGADIAN CITY—A RESIDENT OF BARANGAY Sta. Lucia here, who gained praises from his neighbor for ordering the cutting of a "haunted" century-old tree, is now in trouble following complaints lodged by other residents.

Lito Lerias is now being investigated for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Code.

Village chief Fernandito Mondarte said under the law, tree cutting should be approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sta. Lucia is a coastal village where mangroves naturally grow.

On Palm Sunday, Lerias contracted a man to cut the mangrove locally known as "pagatpat," which grew on his lot.

Mondarte said the tree cutter was touted to possess a talisman against bad spirits.

Ritual

He said the tree cutter performed rituals before chopping down the tree.

After the tree was cut, Lerias earned accolades from neighbors, who claimed they have suffered enough from the bad spirits living in the tree.

Arlyn Flores, 34, said children and adults had suffered some form of illnesses because of the spirits in the tree.

"Almost always when we bring our children to a quack doctor, the quack doctor would say that a spirit had been causing the illnesses," Flores said.

But other villagers, who considered the tree a landmark, lodged complaints against Lerias.

Mondarte said after receiving the complaints, he confiscated the chain saw and conducted an investigation.

Forester Vitaliano Valdez Jr. said that based on its rings, the tree was more than 100 years old.

It was probably the only century-old mangrove tree in the whole of Pagadian, he said.

A villager, Virgilio Pasaol, 58, said he could not understand why Lerias wanted to have the tree cut. "It's just superstition. The tree was harmless," he said.

Sad

Pasaol said some residents were sad that the tree had to go.

He said whenever some villagers went home they would tell tricycle drivers to take them near the "big pagatpat tree."

Carlo de Lara, 34, believed that spirits lived in the tree but said it should not have been touched.

"I would say most of us would prefer to have that tree around than being cut," Pasaol said.

Mondarte said they were now urging the city council to pass a resolution to protect other mangrove trees in the village. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE CENTURY-OLD "pagatpat" tree in Barangay Sta. Lucia in Pagadian City before it was felled yesterday. MICHAEL SARCAUGA

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MSU education as antidote to terrorism

By Nash Maulana
Marawi City

RUNNING A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS "MISSIONARY work" makes sense in Mindanao State University's academic community in Marawi City, where students and school officials must realize the value of education in long-term peace building, says its president, Dr. Ricardo de Leon.

The sheer dedication of the mission worker plus the transforming influence of education as it was in the European Renaissance of yore have been emphasized in a series of dialogues among school officials and between them and the over 18,000 students from diverse religious upbringing and tribes.

De Leon, a retired police general, was candid enough to admit that he had some biases when he was occupying a sensitive post for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and being in the forefront of the country's share in the global fight against terrorism.

Most, if not all of the university's population, now believe that education is the most effective antidote to terrorism through "harmonizing in diversity."

The influence of education, De Leon said, could translate into a modern-day Renaissance in bringing back peace into this troubled land.

"The evolution that happened to me personally is that I followed the philosophy of community-oriented policing and I even wrote two books about it, in which we have crafted the concept on the police personnel being the *kuya* or big brother in the community, when I was in Metro Manila," he said.

Curiously, the PBB (Pinoy Big Brother) concept of the police as Big Brother in De Leon's book "Community Policing" far predated the running of the popular reality TV show.

"Now I know better," De Leon said, referring to his own experience in running the day-to-day affairs of the school which he considers a continuing learning endeavor.

He said he had intellectually outgrown what was "normally" perceived of anyone handling the antiterrorism campaign, the "cultural biases and prejudice."

De Leon said he wanted this evolution passed on through generations by planting the seed of peace right at the heart of Mindanao's landmark of education—the MSU.

Peace education

Prof. Lumala Imam, director for administrative management staff, said various landmark instruments to attain peace were being put in place—the way charity should begin at home—like the revival of the campus' peace plaza or peace garden and the construction of the P30-million Peace Center for conflict prevention, courtesy of the Countrywide Development Fund of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The MSU e-library will also be opened to researchers on Mindanao and numerous other topics in an effort to provide public access to and "virtual exposure on all kinds of civilizations."

And in institutional partnerships with several local, national and international groups, and even with other state universities, various colleges are engaged in "applied research (undertakings) that could directly benefit the community." This includes modern technologies on dairy farms, asparagus and seaweeds production.

DR. RICARDO F. De Leon, MSU president (wearing Malayan cap), in one of the series of dialogues with students at the university's main campus in Marawi City May 23.
BANDERA PHOTOS

But for everything, there is a time. Curfew hours (9 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily) have been imposed on the 988-hectare campus. But for De Leon, the move was not quite with an iron fist that might have anything to do with his having worked under the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, but to make the MSU more conducive to learning.

De Leon said something unimagined in a society of political patronage was a bold step he had to make—terminating the services of 237 campus peace-keepers which had cost the university a hefty P1.1 million in aggregate monthly budget for contractual allowances.

"Anyway, they are coterminous," he said, adding that the continuity of their service largely depended on who sits as university president.

The peace-keeping forces were replaced by only 20 professional policemen.

Officials are proud to show the other side of making the university more conducive to learning—economically and otherwise—beyond quality education and the morning mist to overlook the majestic Lanao Lake with.

They have renovated old dormitories and retrieved student halls that were once private residences of some security personnel and their families.

And with tuition remaining pegged at P85 per semester, the school offers a postgraduate program on peace education. Undergraduate courses are being "infused" with enhanced actual experience of the value of coexistence or what De Leon calls "harmonizing in diversity."

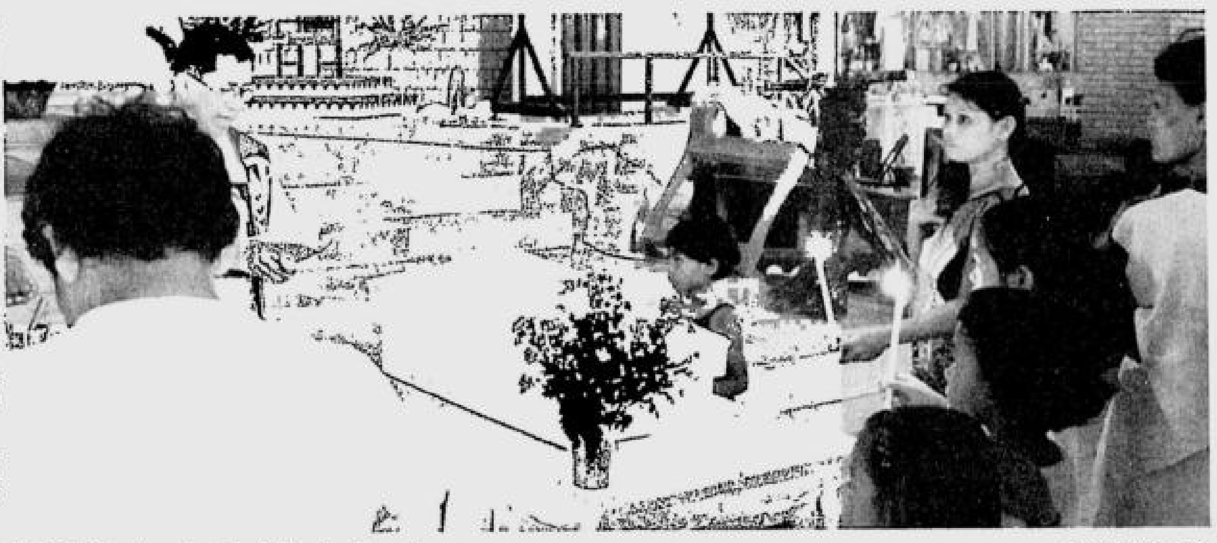
Indisputably the country's lowest tuition at about P4 per unit per semester, the MSU only charges P120 for matriculation fee for the whole semester, P250 per semester dormitory fee, and P10 student's breakfast meal.

Dr. Ben Kadil, MSU information director, said the university had a yearly budget of P620 million, a bulk of which went to salaries of administrative and teaching personnel, and a small percentage to maintenance and operating expenses from which were also charged the stipends of academic and talent university scholars.

With the MSU's increasing electric consumption and unstable power distribution in Lanao del Sur, a referendum is being conducted in five barangays comprising the campus to determine whether residents approve of a plan for the university to purchase power from the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative and manage its community distribution and billing.

Adding light into the main ingredient of peace, the idea, De Leon revealed, was for the university to purchase wholesale 50 megawatts of electricity, utilizing its budget for light and power bills, and, in turn, selling electricity to the five barangays.

Under the concept, each household consumer would be entitled to a yearly dividend from the modest profit of the entrepreneurship venture managed by a university cooperative.


A PRIEST gives the final rites to Angela.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS

Helpless in Malaybalay

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Malaybalay City

ROGELIO DELEJIRO WANTED TO BE ALONE IN his agony. He kept a considerable distance from the funeral procession, attended by a handful of people, mostly neighbors and relatives, on their way to church in Barangay 9 in Malaybalay City.

His 8-month-old daughter Angela, his fourth child with his common-law wife Lina, was inside the small wooden coffin and about to be buried in the public cemetery that noon of May 20.

Rogelio, 54, still thinks the child could have been saved if only they had money for medical expenses. He said he approached a lot of people to ask for help, but none came.

"They just looked down on me," he said. "I guess that's what it takes to be poor."

Angela died of a severe stomach illness the previous night, in their small shack made of rusting galvanized iron sheets, discarded plywood and cartons, in an abandoned sawmill plant in Barangay 9.

Rogelio and Lina sell vegetables and fish on the sidewalk in "Central" market and earn a combined P100 daily. Taking home that amount is very rare to come by, Lina said, since they were only hired on a "labor basis" by traders to sell their market goods placed on a large "*bilao*."

Lina, 36, recalled that when Angela was still in her womb, she was "problematic." She kept wondering how, with their poverty, they could still rear another child.

For the funeral, Rogelio had earlier tried to ask the barangay officials if they would be kind enough to lend them their government-issued multicab vehicle. He failed.

According to a neighbor, one councilman told the dejected father that the barangay chair was not around and so he can't just let them borrow the vehicle. Left with no choice, the mourners marched from the poor couple's shack to the church, and finally to the cemetery.

The church gate was still closed, as they had failed to make prior arrangements. They simply wanted a priest to offer a small prayer for Angela.

Rogelio still kept a distance from his family during the 10-minute stopover at the church.

From there, the wooden coffin was off to the street again, constantly drawing attention from the passersby. An empty funeral car passed by in its usual slow speed, but the driver went on, seemingly helpless to do anything.

At the cemetery, a small hole was already dug. The place is cramped and unkempt, but nevertheless a blessing for Rogelio's family since it was for free. Even the burial had to be delayed because nobody brought a rope to lower the box.

After 30 minutes, the rope arrived and Angela was buried. Rogelio grabbed a pile of dirt and slowly tossed it over the coffin. He wept in silence. Lina and the other children also cried.

Rogelio is again alone in a corner, looking at a distance. He left the cemetery. Alone.

On the way back to their shack, a neighbor, Becky Ulan, attested that the couple was indeed "so very poor." She said her husband, a carpenter, made Angela's coffin.

Lina pointed to a wooden plank which had been their dining table and the entire family's bed at night. A candle and a religious icon was at the center which, Lina said, was displayed during the prayer while Angela was nearing death. The child died on May 19, at 2 p.m.

Asked why Angela was not brought to the hospital, Lina said: "We don't have money. We did ask for help. but we did not make it on time."

Maria Lyn, 10, her eldest daughter, seemed to grow old fast and couldn't play like other girls her age did. She takes care of her younger siblings when her parents are out. "I miss her already," she said of Angela.

Rogelio was staggering in his stride when he entered his shanty. He had a drink but was not quite drunk.

He offered an apology. "I am sorry if I feel like this, but I just want to release my emotion," he said, his eyes still bloodshot from tears.

Power comes to B'laan village

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Columbio, Sultan Kudarat

AGUSTIN DABI ALWAYS thought of this town as a war zone.

Yet, the 50-year B'laan tribal chieftain of Datalblao said he did not relocate to safer grounds. He dreamed that one day, things will become better in Columbio town, especially in his village.

Imagine an enviable topography—upland, rugged terrain, and trails over rolling hills, creeks, rivers, and hillsides. This is how Datalblao looks like.

But Dabi, a father of 18, said he always loved the favorable climate in his village.

Like Dabi, his fellow villagers have come to love the village even though it is remote.

One rainy day in 2005, the hope of Datalblao villagers started to be realized when unexpected visitors came to the village.

The visitors were from Winrock International, a US-based group committed to the development of clean energy, among others. Winrock is part of the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program or Amore.

"When [the] staff of Amore introduced to us their program through assemblies, we were not 100 percent convinced. Many organizations have come and gone. They have promised us a 360-degree turn [in our] lifestyle. None of the promises [had been realized]," Dabi said in the vernacular.

But because of the new hope from the program, Dabi said he started the legwork.

He met with leaders of communist rebels operating in the area and sought their "approval and support."

"The commander advised me to see to it that the people will not be deceived," Dabi said.

That signaled the start of the massive work for the project found by Amore to be the most viable for the village.

From April until September of 2005, the villagers labored on a micro-hydro power plant aimed at generating at least seven kilowatts of power.

The power plant cost about P7 million and now supplies electricity to the village of about 72 households.

Today, Dabi and his people have access to television, which is their main door to the outside world.

The B'laan of Datalblao even rejoiced with the entire nation when Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

Dabi said Amore has also taught them to care for the power source.

Each household contributes about P100 per month for the maintenance of the hydro electric plant.

Dabi said the Amore project has brought change in their lives.

Amelita Lasib, a 32-year-old mother of five, agrees.

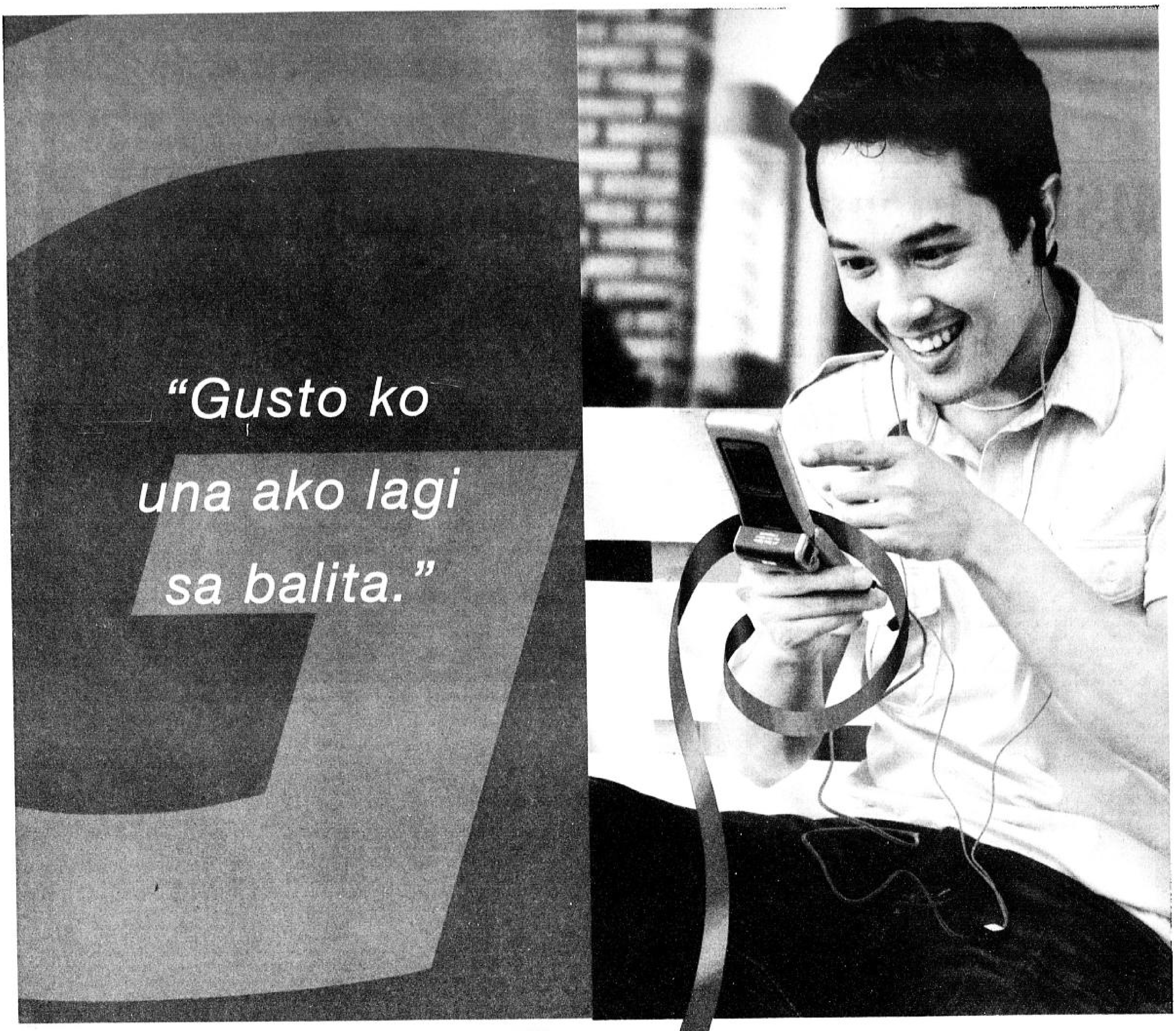
She said when villagers were still contending with the faint light of kerosene lamps to brighten up their nights, work in her rattan furniture shop had to grind to a halt when darkness set in.

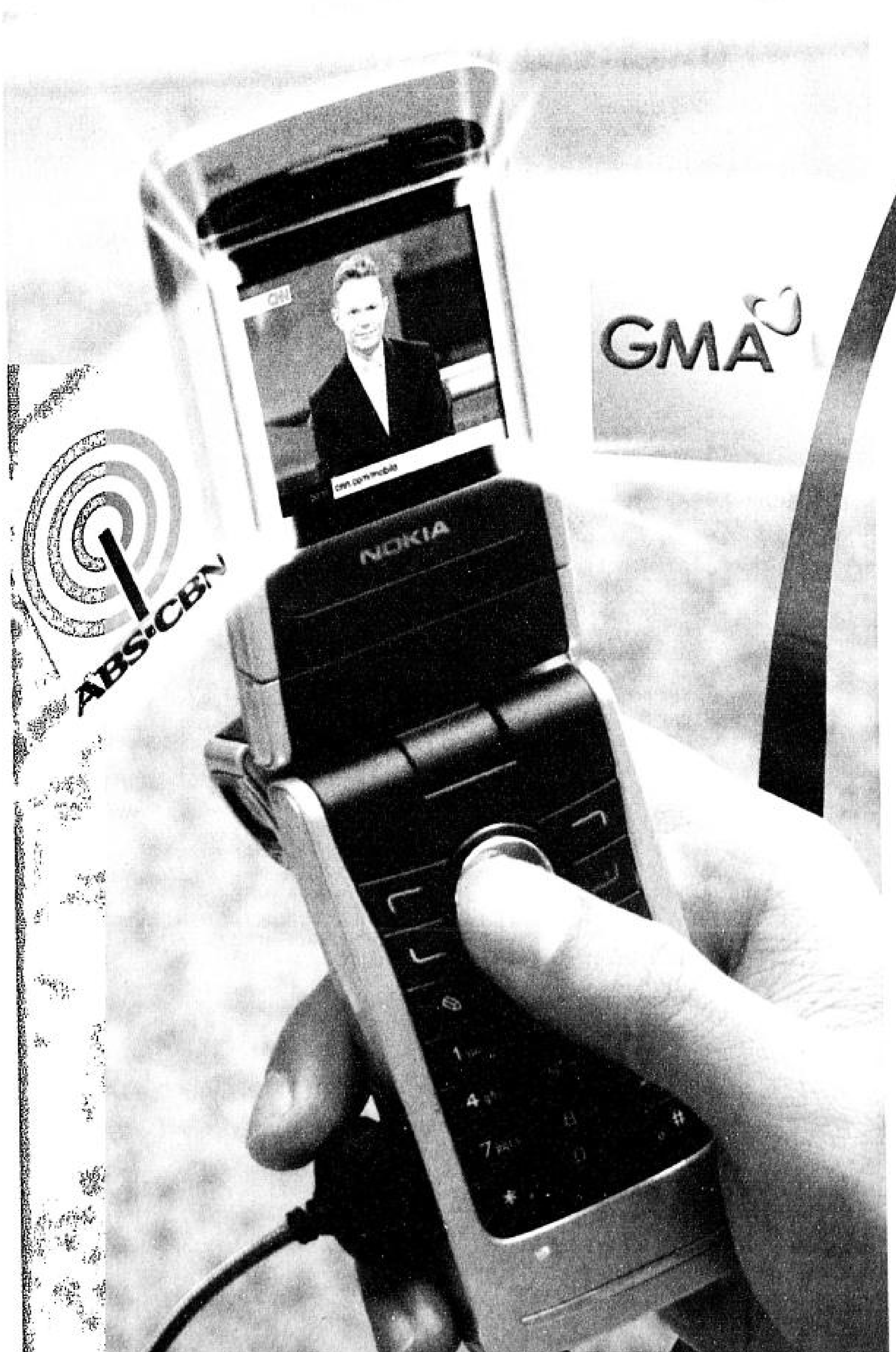
Now, work in her shop would continue even at night because of the electricity.

Aside from the micro-hydro power plant project, Winrock, through Amore, also provided villagers with potable drinking water.

A learning facility for the Lam-alis Elementary School, a public calling office, a tree nursery and an integrated micro-hydro grain mill were also provided under the project.

A B'LAAN couple in Barangay Datalblao has more time for their livelihood—making rattan chairs—even at night because electricity has come to their village.
JEOFFREY MAITEM





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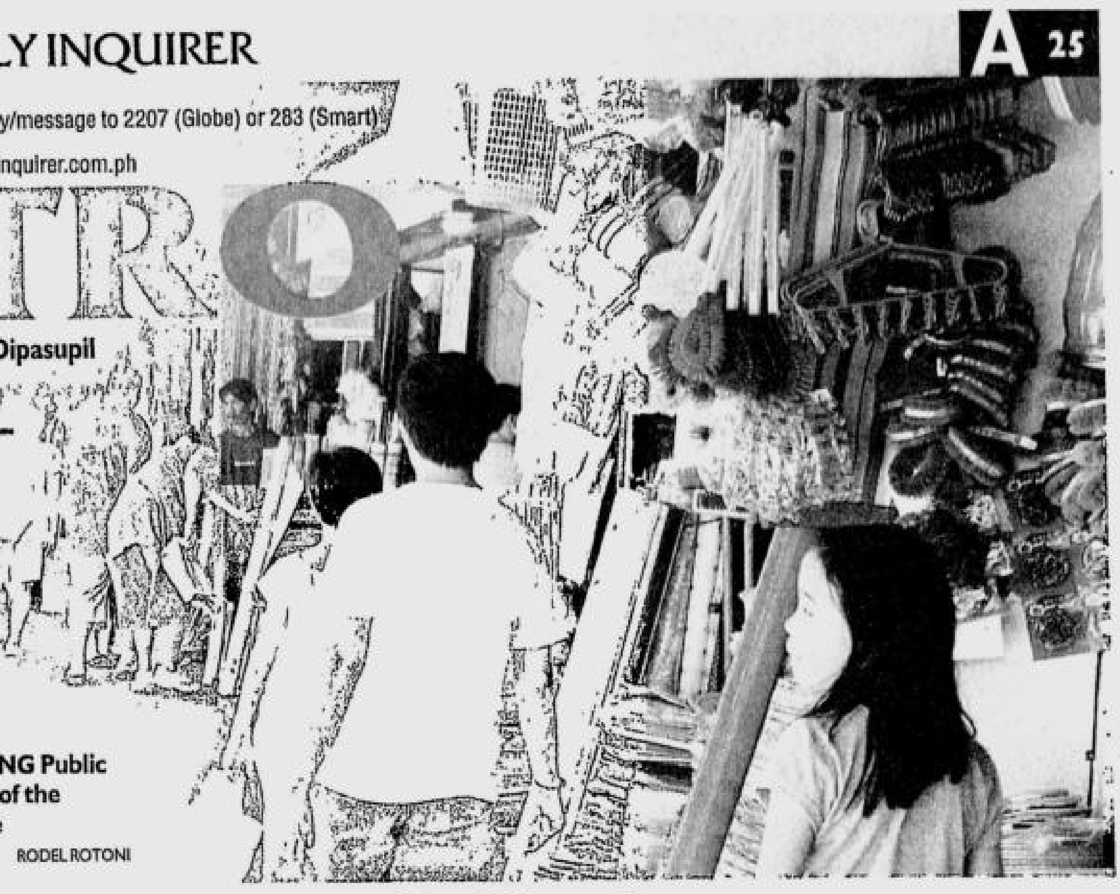
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Model Muntinlupa public market uses recycled water



THE ALABANG Public Market: one of the largest in the metropolis. RODEL ROTONI

City's pride is first low-cost wastewater treatment facility in country

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SOMETHING IS STIRRING UNDERNEATH the parking lot of the Alabang Public Market in Muntinlupa City.

Five feet below the ground, the country's first low-cost modern wastewater treatment facility is recycling the filthy water discharged by the town market into clean water 24 hours a day.

The local government spent P6.8 million to build the facility, but Jet Pabilonia, head of the City Disaster Coordinating Council, said the equipment is worth every centavo—since it will save the livelihood of the market's 1,300 stall owners and fishermen who fish in the nearby Laguna de Bay.

Big savings

In fact, compared to the water treatment facilities of industrial parks and big companies, the local government was able to cut costs by putting together a "hybrid" model that combined low-maintenance and conventional systems.

"We know that it is very expensive to put up wastewater treatment systems. Normally, big factories spend about P10 million to P100 million to put up, maintain and operate such a facility," Pabilonia told the INQUIRER.

The construction of the wastewater treatment facility was in line with the Local Initiatives for Affordable Wastewater Treatment (Linaw) project, carried out with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (Usaid).

Muntinlupa, under Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, was one of the four developing cities in the country selected by the Usaid for the three-year-old project, which was aimed at helping local government units implement Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act.

Pilot areas

The other cities were Naga City in Camarines Sur, Iloilo City in Western Visayas and Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental. These areas, however, have yet to build their own facilities, said Pabilonia.

Under the Linaw project, Usaid provided the four local government units with technical assistance in coming up with affordable systems to help them comply with the Clean Water Act.

"The project is very helpful to us because the bulk of the law is anchored on the involvement of local government units," Pabilonia explained.

Before the construction of the facility, local engineers chosen to work on the project underwent training in the country as well as overseas.

Funded by the Usaid, some of them were sent to Jakarta and Java in Indonesia and Phoenix, Arizona, in the United States, to observe wastewater treatment facilities in these areas.

1-M visitors daily

The Muntinlupa City government, meanwhile, decided to build the pilot facility at the Alabang Public Market, one of the largest markets in the metropolis. About one million people go to the market everyday, from areas like Las Piñas City, Parañaque City , Cavite and San Pedro, Laguna.

Citing a recent study conducted by the Philippine Environment Monitor, an affiliate of

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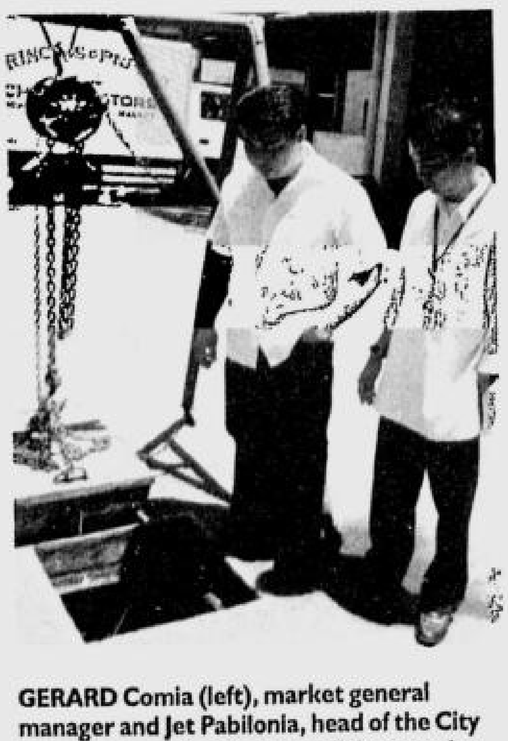

GERARD Comia (left), market general manager and Jet Pabilonia, head of the City Disaster Coordinating Council, inspect the wastewater treatment facility. RODEL ROTONI

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Teaching Makati's roots through storytelling

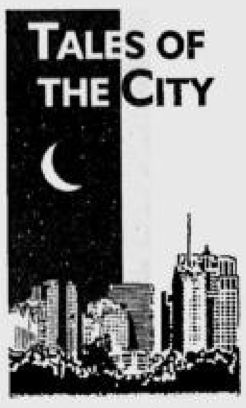
75-year-old grandma is unofficial historian to RP's business capital

MERCEDES Samarista: "I enjoy telling stories about Makati."

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR AS LONG AS HER MEMORY can go centuries back and return to the present, this energetic grandmother will continue telling her favorite story.



Mercedes Samarista, a 75-year-old retired public school teacher and guidance counselor, has made it her life's mission to pass on the history of her beloved home, Makati City, to younger generations.

"After realizing how far the city has come, it is very important that we continue passing on (to our children) the city's history. It should not just be a lasting memory but a living memory of the past," Samarista said.

Living repository

This living repository of the business capital's history has been a tireless storyteller at the Museo ng Makati for the last 11 years, narrating to the young a historical account that antedates even her family's earliest generation. Twice a week, Samarista would put on her "kimona" and retell Makati's tale to students who visit the museum.

"I enjoy telling stories about Makati to whoever comes here. When I was young, I grew up hearing stories from my grandfather about how Makati was like, and then my parents also told me about my grandfather," Samarista told the INQUIRER, smiling at the recollection.

Her undying enthusiasm later landed her a post as a consultant of the Makati Heritage Conservation Committee, an inter-agency task force created to plan and implement a project that would trace the city's roots.

"I was invited to give those who are interested an idea on how Makati was then. I tell stories to children. I interview old folks so I could get more information about how the city was back then," said Samarista, whose tanned complexion, brown hair and smooth cheeks belie her age.

Being the city's unofficial historian seems apt for Samarista, as her family has been part of the history of Makati, which is celebrating its 336th foundation anniversary this year.

Samarista is the granddaughter of the late Hermogenes Santos, who served as Makati's municipal president (a position equivalent to mayor) from 1908 to 1911. Her mother's father, Maximo Leyva, was a soldier who served alongside Gen. Pio del Pilar, one of the heroes of the 1898 Philippine Revolution.

City's first dwellers

Her family's ancestral house still stands on JP Rizal Street in Barangay Poblacion, the city's oldest barangay. Located by the Pasig River, the area where the barangay is now located was where the city's first inhabitants, the Malays, set up their dwellings in the 13th century, Samarista said.

"My family was one of the original settlers of Makati," a city that in 1670 was known as the San Pedro de Macati, a "visita" of Sta. Ana de Sapa, now known as Sta. Ana, Manila, she added.

"My grandfather established residence here in the 1800s. This was still a swampy area then, and the area there in Ayala (the Central Business District) was filled with tall grasses and boulders," Samarista recalled.

Having grown up listening to stories, it was natural for Samarista to share with others what she knew about the old Makati: A place where mountains of adobe towered over everything else instead of skyscrapers and where instead of paved riverside streets, you could see swampland. Potters and farmers made up the workforce then compared to today's businessmen in their smart suits.

Captive audience

When Samarista became an elementary school teacher in 1951, she told her class as well about the history of Makati.

"Whenever I took up history with my class, I always included the history of Makati. I even showed my students a compilation of pictures from my parents which showed how Makati looked like then," she related.

She must have passed on the city's history thousands of times as Samarista taught for 40 years until her retirement in 1991.

Origin of city's name

"It was so much fun. They usually would be surprised when I told them where Makati got its name. They would tell me that all along, they thought Makati's name was derived from the Filipino term *makati* (itchy)," she said, of the city's name that was derived from the local term for the ebbing tide.

The mother of four also made sure that her children grew up valuing the past while moving toward the future. Samarista also passed on to her 10 grandchildren the tales she had heard from her grandfather.

"My generation is the last generation that could carry on the city's traditions and religious practices. That's why it saddens me that now, young people look at Holy Week practices as mere rituals that the spirituality of it all is lost. That's what challenges me now. To keep the city's traditions alive," said Samarista, a devout Catholic.

Strong links

During her storytelling sessions at the Museo, Samarista always emphasizes the city's historical links with the Church. Makati's establishment as an independent locality began in 1577, she said, when the first missionaries arrived in the city. Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legaspi had discovered the swampland six years earlier.

In the early 1600s, Jesuits arrived in the city and began pottery-making, a livelihood that made the city a wealthy town even during the time of the Spanish colonization. The Saints Peter and Paul Church, one of the city's oldest, was built in Barangay Poblacion within the same century.

"It's really important to preserve this place, because this is our heritage to the next generations. They should know how this became a beautiful place to live in. It is not because the city is accessible, but because it has a strong tradition based on the church, which up to now we are still trying to preserve," said Samarista, whose entire family has long been devoted servants of the church.

With such urgency to keep the city's history alive, how does a grandmother keep up?

"You know a teacher's mind... It doesn't easily forget. The history is all inside my head, and to keep my memory sharp, I keep reading and reading. And I'm always with other people, talking to them, so I stay active," said Samarista, known in her community as *Tita* Eden.

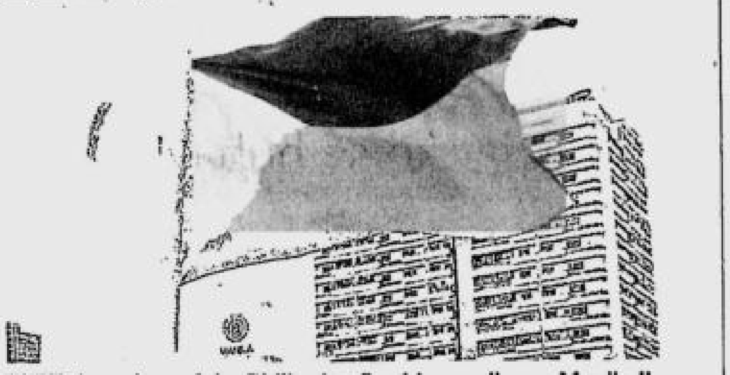
Boundless energy

Indeed, Samarista seems to have boundless energy. On top of her duties as history's guardian, Samarista, along with husband Antonio, regularly attends meetings and activities of the city's senior citizens organization while, fulfilling their obligations to the church as members of the Legion of Mary.

She also serves as a barangay mediator, helping families and neighbors settle disputes ranging from the trivial to the serious.

At the end of the day, she sees storytelling as the vocation she could carry on the longest, despite her poor eyesight.

"I always look forward to telling the city's history to children. I tell myself I could do this for 25 more years," said Samarista.



"LET the colors of the Philippine flag bloom all over Manila."

RODEL ROTONI

Display the flag today, city gov't asks residents

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT has urged all city government buildings, including schools, hospitals and barangay halls, to display the Philippine flag in line with the celebration of Flag Day today.

Mayor Lito Atienza also urged owners of private establishments and businesses in the city, as well as residents, to do the same.

"Let the colors of the Philippine flag bloom all over Manila not only during Flag Day but throughout the year so we can show the whole world how much we value our freedom and independence as a country and as a people," he said.

In 2004, the city government launched the national movement called "Kilusang Pilipinas Kong Mahal" which promotes "respect for and pride in the Philippine flag that would result in deeper love for the country and strengthen our confidence in ourselves as a nation and as a people."

Binay gets letter from 'The Killer'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT LOOKED LIKE THE TYPICAL letter communist hit men usually sent to their targets before they struck, according to the police.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay received a letter which was mailed from Imus, Cavite, on May 15. It was signed by someone who called himself "The Killer."

Inside the envelope was a black ribbon and a leaf.

"The approach was similar to that of the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army). Whenever there was someone they were going to liquidate, they would send a letter with flowers and a black ribbon," said Makati police chief Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio.

The black ribbon symbolized mourning while the leaf represented a funeral wreath.

Valerio, however, believed that "the Killer" was probably just a copycat as communist rebels were highly unlikely to have any motive to assassinate Binay, an opposition leader who has been among the administration's most vocal critics.

"I do not believe that the CPP-NPA would want him dead," Valerio told the INQUIRER.

The threat letter read: "Mayor J. Binay, This is your chance to die ang (sic) your family, The Killer."

"*Buti nga pinagsasabihan ka pa eh, masama yung di ka pinagsasabihan*" (It's better to be forewarned than not at all), Binay told the INQUIRER.

The mayor said that the writer may have tried to disguise his handwriting. Binay added that the letter sender probably did not use his preferred hand for writing because the handwriting seemed awkward.

Valerio said they were trying to trace where the letter came from.

The Makati police recently made a threat assessment for the mayor, in which they concluded that there was a real threat to Binay and his family, because of the his visibility as an opposition leader.

Pasig volunteers tutor 80 streetchildren

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

EIGHTY STREETCHILDREN aged five to nine graduated the other day from a free nonformal preschool training program in Pasig City.

The graduates were all community-based streetchildren, social welfare and development worker Mylene Garcia told the INQUIRER.

They have homes, but being born to poor families, they spend most of their time out on the streets in Pasig City, either begging, selling flowers or plastic bags, or just loitering, she added.

Year-long program

Thanks to volunteer teachers like Garcia, the children completed the year-long street education program sponsored by the city government and Councilor Bobby Eusebio.

"We wanted to prepare them for formal schooling. Most of them had not yet attended school," Garcia, one of the four volunteer teachers for the project, said.

Fifty of the graduates attended the informal classes under a makeshift tent in front of the Mutya Ng Pasig Public Market while 30 of them went to a small classroom in Barangay Nagpayong.

The daily classes usually began at 9 a.m. and were over by noon, Garcia said.

The first six months were devoted to "values formation," she said. "We teach them good manners. We also have storytelling," she added.

Alphabet and numbers

Academic lessons which included teaching students the alphabet and how to count were taught next.

The program began four years ago with about 15 students. Without the makeshift tents, the first classes were held just about anywhere: in front of restaurants, sidewalks and gasoline stations.

Model Muntinlupa public market uses recycled water

From page A25

the World Bank, Pabilonia said 70 percent of water pollutants can be traced to domestic waste.

Public markets were identified as the second most common source of water pollutants in the country, followed by slaughterhouses, hospitals and subdivisions.

Pabilonia added that only seven to 15 percent of areas in the country have sewerage systems, which were developed and constructed during the American regime.

"In Metro Manila, only a portion of Quezon City, Manila, Pasay and Makati have proper sewerage systems," he said.

Best spot

Gerard Comia, general manager of the Alabang Public Market, said it was the best spot for the wastewater treatment facility as it is situated right beside the Alabang Creek, which is connected to the Laguna de Bay.

The market—which covers an area of two hectares—discharges about 200,000 liters of wastewater daily with a Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) value of 600 milligrams per liter. The water comes from toilets, canteens and the wet section.

(BOD refers to the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose the organic matter in a sample of water. It is also used to measure the degree of water pollution.)

Less pollution

Since the wastewater facility started its operation in January 2006, the BOD level of water discharged into the creek has decreased to 50 mg/l, the acceptable BOD value for a Class C water like the Laguna de Bay, noted Pabilonia.

According to Pabilonia, the facility processes 210 cubic meters of wastewater per day, 50 percent of which is discharged into the creek, while the other half is redirected to a water tank owned by the local government.

"The treated water is not potable. It is used for toilet flushing, street cleaning and irrigation," Comia said in an interview.

Due to the availability of recycled water, the local government has been able to save about P100,000 in pumping costs since January. "We calculated that we had saved at least P25,000 a month," Comia added.

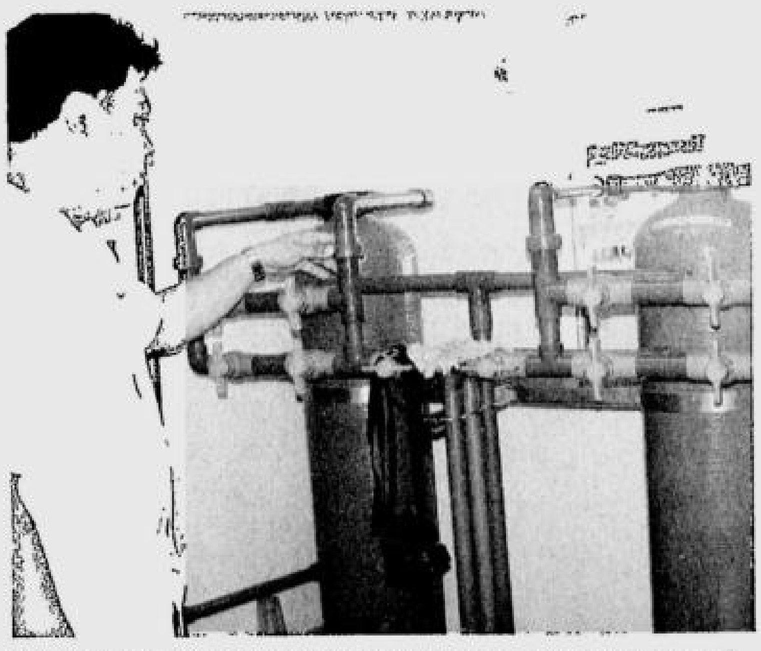
Ensuring livelihood

The new machine was a welcome development among market vendors, too.

Angelina Bulos, a stall owner who also heads the Alabang Public Market Cooperative, said they were relieved that the local government has decided to build a facility which would help protect their livelihood.

"It is very helpful to us vendors because we won't have a hard time maintaining clean standards in the market. And there would be no reason for environment agencies to close the market down," she said.

Pabilonia said market operations would no longer be threatened by noncompliance with the Clean Water Act since the wastewater treatment facility has managed to lower the BOD value of wastewater coming from the market which is discharged into the creek.



THE "HYBRID" wastewater treatment facility was built at a cost of P6.8 million.

RODEL ROTONI

"This facility is not only helping the environment but it is also, at the same time, protecting the livelihood of our vendors and fishermen relying on the Laguna Lake," he added.

Comia said the presence of the facility in the market has also created awareness among the vendors of the importance of caring for the environment.

Environmental awareness

"Now, they are aware of what they should and should not do. They have became involved in protecting the environment," he added.

For Mayor Fresnedi, however, the pilot facility is just one step toward a bigger dream: to develop a facility that will treat wastewater coming from households in the city.

The mayor, who recently attended the 4th Mayors' Asia Pacific Environment Summit in Melbourne, Australia, to learn more about wastewater management technologies, is eyeing the construction of a full-piped sewerage treatment system across the city, but the local government has yet to raise money for the project.

"We hope that our neighboring cities will join us in saving the dying Laguna Lake," Fresnedi said.

GLOBAL Pinoy

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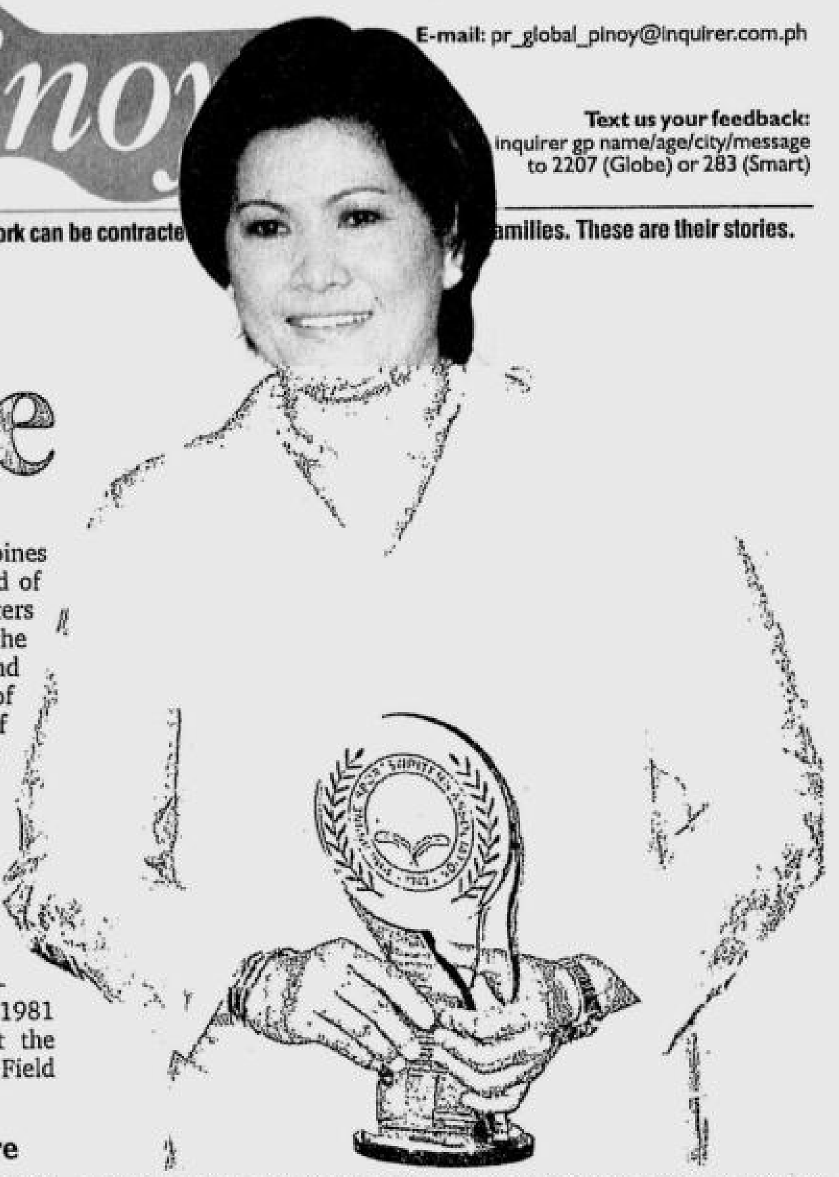
This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracte amilies. These are their stories.



DE VEGA-MERCADO in 2005; She now works in the Lion City. ERNIE SARMIENTO

ASIA'S SPRINT QUEEN

Lydia runs to Singapore

By Dennis U. Eroa

SANS FANFARE RESERVED FOR TOP CELEBRITIES, Lydia de Vega-Mercado, the country's most famous name in athletics, quietly slipped out of the country last December.

The 40-year-old Mercado, whose phenomenal athletics career during the '80s made her a modern-day heroine, will now lend her expertise to young Singaporean athletes.

Husband Paolo, a former Meralco engineer who now engages in the fishpond business, confirmed that his wife is now working in the tiny but prosperous nation .

But he declined from further commenting, explaining that the matter is a family affair.

"I'm really sorry but I would rather not discuss it with you. We don't want to talk about it anymore," said Mercado.

Even Diay, as De Vega-Mercado is famously called by her fans, did not answer an e-mail sent by the INQUIRER. The Mercados claimed they didn't have Diay's telephone numbers in Singapore.

Daughter Stephanie, who plays for the De La Salle University varsity volleyball team, admitted she missed her mother.

"She cares for us a lot," said the 16-year-old Stephanie, a freshman taking up Sports Management at the Taft campus. "I miss her and our shopping moments."

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok said Diay's decision to leave was a private affair. Normally quotable, Go suddenly became silent when asked to comment further.

"Please ask Diay's family. I don't want to be accused of meddling," he said.

According to veteran sports writer Eddie Alinea, Diay received a lucrative offer from Singapore.

Best SEAG product

"We can't blame Diay for leaving," he said.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez said there are two "faces" in Diay's decision to work in Singapore.

"Lydia, a product of Palarong Pambansa, will be missed a lot as we continue to go into the grassroots level in search of future stars," Ramirez said.

"The PSC wishes the jewel of athletics all the best as she pursues a career in Singapore. I'm sure that she will gain a lot not only financially but technically as well."

PSC Commissioner Leon G. Montemayor said it's natural for everybody to look for greener pastures.

"Diay is a sensible person. I can only speculate that' Singapore gave her a good offer. We must respect her decision," said Montemayor, chair of the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philipines-East Asia Growth Area Friendship Games for the past three years.

Ramirez added the PSC will happily embrace De Vega-Mercado back to the fold if she decides to return. Diay's last job before her Singaporean stint was as a PSC consultant.

Alinea has followed De Vega-Mercado's career since Day One. Alinea said Diay had standing offers from three private Singaporean schools to handle athletics since last year.

"She is the most illustrious product of the Southeast Asian Games.

"She's most beloved by our neighbors," Alinea noted. "Remember also that she recorded memorable triumphs in Singapore."

The prestigious Philippines Sports Association composed of the country's sportswriters picked Diay as Athlete of the Year in 1981, '86 and '87 and inducted Diay to the Hall of Fame alongside the likes of basketball legends Carlos Loyzaga and Lauro Mumar and fellow trackster Mona Sulaiman.

A product of the Palarong Pambansa, Diay burst into prominence when she ran to victories in the 200-meter and 400-meter runs during the 1981 Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Stadium.

An affair with Singapore

The double-gold performance triggered an avalanche of sterling golden performances not only in the biennial Games but in a bigger and tougher stage like the Asian Games.

The pony-tailed, charming lass from Meycauyan, Bulacan had the nation enthralled when she ran like a gazelle in becoming Asia's fastest woman by winning the century dash during the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games and four years later in the Seoul Asiad.

She also represented the country in two Olympic Games—1984 Los Angeles and 1988 Seoul.

In the SEAG, Diay's love affair with Singapore started in 1983 when she kept her 200-meter title. She cemented her reign as the SEAG's best by ruling the 100-m dash in the 1987 Jakarta Games.

Although she faltered in the 1989 Kuala Lumpur event, Diay ran straight to the arms of an adoring public as she won back the title in the 1991 Manila SEAG at the ecstatic Rizal Memorial Track and Field Complex.

Singapore continued to fall in love with Diay as the Filipina sprinter surged to victory in the century dash in the 1993 SEAG on top of adding the 200 m gold.

The nation cried with Diay in mourning the unfortunate death of her 4-year-old son John Michael in 2001. John was bumped by a jeepney near their house at Project 4, Quezon City.

OUT OF JAPAN where outside the ring Pelonia also washed dishes, painted and cleaned houses, etc. You name it, he did it. EDWIN BACASMAS

Boxer endures School of Hard Knocks for family

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S BOXING DAY IN TOKYO and not many among the predominantly Japanese spectators were giving this Filipino pugilist much chance against the hometown bet.

Rey Pelonia, a natural welterweight then in his early 20s, had just made the leap to junior middleweight. He was also coming off two consecutive losses to Japanese fighters as well.

But the man tagged as "Flash Rey Shikiyama" knew himself better.

Wearing his signature blazing red Winning gloves and trunks, Pelonia measured his much bigger opponent with crisp jabs and combinations in the first two rounds. Come the third, a devastating right uppercut sent the Jap down to the canvas.

The bout was over but the day was just starting for Pelonia.

Not far from the stadium, another job was waiting for him at a factory where he was working as a bronze stripper.

In his three-year stint in Japan, he sought not only fights but also jobs outside the ring. Pelonia, a title-holder in his home country, was never discriminating.

He took jobs as they came—dishwashing, paint jobs, house cleaning, car spare parts reconditioning, forklift work, even a slot in a "pechay" plantation.

"That's usually the (off-season) life of many boxers fighting overseas," he says in Filipino in an interview with the INQUIRER. "We can't settle with our ring earnings. We seek to augment our income in any decent way possible."

Breadwinner

Like many of his peers, Pelonia wasn't doing it only for himself.

At Barangay Conel in General Santos City, his parents and 11 siblings were clinging on to whatever hope came from him.

The fourth in a brood of 12, Pelonia gradually assumed the role of a breadwinner not long after he stepped into the ring at age 16.

There was just no way his father, a part-time worker in a nearby logging company, could support the entire family. His mother was making straw mats ("*banig*"), a job that earned so little.

From Japan, the boxer would get all too familiar distress calls and mails: no more money for tomorrow's meal, a brother would most likely quit school next semester.

Each time, these messages of misery would touch the hard-punching but soft-hearted Pelonia. "They kept me going, steeled my resolve to work harder, in and out of the ring."

Pelonia was at the height of his local boxing career when he decided to push his luck in Japan in 1994. Going abroad was a natural route for many boxers seeking big dough, he explains.

Two years earlier, he captured

BOXER/ A28

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‘The loans are fine, but my luck is in Hong Kong’

By Pennie Azarcon-De la Cruz

“YOUR CREDIT IS good, but dollars and riyals are better”

SORIANO: I’d rather work two more years abroad. ROMY HOMILLADA

By any indication, Celestina Soriano, isn’t doing too badly. Thanks to her savings as a domestic in Hong Kong for 14 years and loans from a micro-finance non-government organization (NGO), she has built a six-door apartment and put up a sari-sari store and a cell phone load business in her neighborhood.

Soriano’s earnings can comfortably support her family and send her year-old son through college.

But like other former overseas Filipino workers in Bagong Silang in Caloocan, Soriano, 39, is saving up for another try at the labor market abroad.

“I’m going back to Hong Kong, work there for two more years, then migrate to Canada with my family,” she revealed, speaking mainly in Filipino.

Microfinance service

This was hardly what ZOTO (Zone One Tondo One) envisioned when it started offering low-interest loans to the enterprising poor in Bagong Silang almost three years ago.

ZOTO is a non-governmental community organization providing microfinance service to the city’s poor, particularly the unemployed, victims of demolition, former OFWs and those edged out by globalization.

“Our goal was to make the women stay and set up livelihood projects in their community by providing them credit at very reasonable interest rates,” said Nancy Borje, 41, manager of the micro finance program known as KKZ or Kabuhayan sa Komunidad ng ZOTO.

Staying would be good for their family, especially their young children, and the neighborhood that would gain from their enterprises, Borje added. “We also want to empower the women by giving them financial independence and the confidence to run their own business.”

ZOTO has been servicing urban poor communities since the 1970s with funds from the international NGO Bread for the World. It has chapters in Dagat-dagatan, Navotas; Dagat-dagatan, Malabon; Dagat-dagatan, Bagong Silang, Tala, and Camarin in Caloocan City; Muzon, Sapang Palay and Towerville in San Jose del Monte Bulacan; Dasmariñas, Bulihan, Gen. Trias and Tanza in Cavite.

The KKZ has 2,172 clients from Caloocan and Bulacan, 1,700 of them active borrowers, Borje said. The KKZ does not set a minimum or a cap on how much the women can borrow. Loans range from P5,000 to P30,000, and are charged a 3.5 percent monthly interest.

Easiest venture

This, assured the KKZ manager, was much better than the usurious “5/6” rates from other neighborhood sources.

KKZ members also get death benefits from Samahang Damayan (SD) and life insurance from Cocolife, said Borje.

There are conditions. Borrowers must have their own businesses and own the house or lot where they live. They must have a co-maker or guarantor who must also be a KKZ client.

Loans are payable within 75 days, with a penalty of P1,000 a day for delayed payments. For her loan of P15,000, for instance, Soriano pays P240 a day.

ZOTO has now incorporated a gender component to the loan program to educate members on their rights. “This is meant to minimize or eliminate domestic violence,” said Borje.

Although ZOTO encourages all sorts of enterprise, Bagong Silang borrowers often start sari-sari stores, said Borje.

It’s easiest for them considering their lack of business skills, said Imelda Gulferic, 36, whose children range in age from five to 20. “The capital is not that much and we can set up the store in front of our homes (so) we can look after our household and children.”

OFWS DREAMING. Women ponder their overseas stint at the office of Zone One Tondo One, a non-government organization providing financial assistance for them to stay and turn entrepreneurs in the Philippines. ROMY HOMILLADA

Borje wishes they would try other businesses, but the women simply want to save enough for passport and visa fees, plane fare and some pocket money to go abroad, said Yolanda Danan, 40, and Jenny Dolor, 41.

Cecilia Icaonapo, 34, mother of two children, said, “I’d like to go to Singapore; the money is good. Anyway, my children can always stay with my parents.”

Extended family

Most of the women are former domestics in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Middle East. Though a few sunk their savings into small homes or front-yard businesses, the money was never enough, they said.

Explained Leticia de Oro, 50, who sews and sells RTW, “We can work here and earn, but that would only support our immediate families. If we work abroad, even our relatives back in the countryside will benefit.”

For most Filipinos, the concept of family was highly flexible and stretchable, noted Carrie Tharan, a long-time advocate of migrants’ rights and currently adviser of Migrant Forum in Asia. “Included in our definition… are distant relatives, even neighbors and househelp… Helping them means sending their own network of relatives to school, giving them the means to earn a living, providing for their old age, and so on.”

But Tharan, who is currently doing research on life after migration, there was actually more to working abroad than economics. “Being away from home can be and is a means of ‘liberation’ in one sense.”

She work abroad made most women OFW financially independent. They travel alone and do things without worrying about what other people would say, and can literally distance themselves from the day-to-day problems that Filipino families face.

Creature comforts

Most OFWs have also become hooked on creature comforts. Although they suffered many forms of oppression, Tharan observed that most of them enjoyed the comforts of living abroad.

The Bagong Silang women discuss their dreams of working abroad—far from the sari-sari stores whose stocks are often depleted by unemployed husbands and children, away from neighbors who buy on credit and never pay.

The loans were fine, one of them whispered confidentially. *“Pero wala dito ang swerte ko. Nasa* Hong Kong. (My luck waits for me in Hong Kong).”

For more information on ZOTO chapters and low-interest loans, e-mail kkz-inc_sm@yahoo.com or zoto@i.next.net, or call 9850200.

So you are going into business?

By Kate Pedroso

ACIER M. LOTILLA DID NOT WANT TO be an Overseas Filipino Worker forever, and so she had a plan: to save and put up her own business. “I don’t want to work as an OFW forever. I don’t want to be always away from the country, serving foreigners.”

She started setting up her Acier Salon, which is located in Barangka, Mandaluyong, in 2003, after returning to the country in April 2001. Aside from providing services like haircuts and foot spas, Acier salon also sells organic soap, lotion and massage oils.

Even with her degree in Food and Nutrition, 47-year-old Lotilla realized her salary as a nutritionist in the Cardinal Santos Hospital was not enough to support her family. “That prompted me to go abroad and seek greener pastures,” she said.

Lotilla left the country in November 1985 for Canada, taking on jobs as caregiver for the elderly, bartender and food supervisor for a Vancouver hotel in the span of 16 years. She also tried her hand in small businesses of her own while in Canada, like newspaper delivery and small-time catering.

With all those years abroad and dabbling in one business venture after another, Lotilla has collected a few tips on starting a business from an OFW point of view.

Tip: Study

It was not pure work for Lotilla in Canada. “I was keen to learn. Since I was only working for 8 hours, from 3 p.m. onwards I studied,” she said she took up a small business management course in Vancouver.

After returning home, she began taking short three-month courses with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), where she took up cosmetology and hair science, reflexology and Dressmaking.

“I wanted to find out where I was good at,” she said. “I even sent our maid to Tesda to take up cosmetology, too. In fact, she was my classmate.”

Lotilla estimated her expenses to be around P5,000, even as tuition for government-subsidized Tesda courses only cost P50. “It’s because you have to pay for your own materials and chemicals,” she said. In addition, she had to pay for her own “model.”

Aside from her short course in Tesda, she also took up additional courses with Ricky Reyes.

Research

Lotilla took great pains in knowing beforehand what she was getting into. “I did my research before putting up the salon,” she said. “I read magazines, books, [surfed] the Internet. I talked with people with [salon] businesses, and went to salons like David’s and Salon Detail on Boni Ave., just to observe how they operate.”

She added that she was challenged to provide better service to her customers, especially after her bad experiences of waiting far too long at the beauty salons.

Lotilla shelled out P300,000 initially to cover expenses for rent, equipment, licensing and her three employees. “I have free meals and snacks for my employees. Sometimes, I also shoulder their transportation allowance,” she added.

She stressed how important it was that she knew the ins and outs of her own business.

“You have to study everything,” she said. “You’ll gain from the products if you know how to use them—the proper mix and the proper measurement. If you don’t, you will end up wasting money.”

Tip: Keep a network of contacts

Lotilla has maintained her network of contacts—people who have the same business as hers whom she can consult in times of difficulty.

And her contacts usually come in handy, especially now that her primary difficulty in this business is doing everything on her own. “I try to think positive, though. I talk to my consultants—my Tesda instructor, and friends who also have their own salons,” she said.

Tip: Not just about money

Lotilla takes necessary precautions in dealing with her customers. “Everything should be sterilized,” she said. “I make it a point to check my customer’s medical histories, like if they have diabetes, since I know how dangerous it could be for them if they are wounded.”

She said she also turns down pregnant customers who want to have their hair relaxed or ‘rebonded.’ “It’s because the chemicals we use for relaxing or rebonding may be harmful. I also check if the customer has asthma and other respiratory problems, which may be triggered by the chemicals,” she added.

Tip: Handling clients

Lotilla said she struggled with losses incurred in the course of running her business, as well as convincing customers to avail of her salon’s services. “It’s hard encouraging customers to go to my salon, so I figured I must provide good services to attract them,” she said.

She is also no stranger to negative people and unsatisfied customers. “For unhappy customers, I try to appease them by offering a repeat of the same service free of charge,” she said.

Cost of hair treatment in Acier salon ranges from P35 for a simple haircut to P1,200 for hair rebonding, depending on the customer’s hair length.

Boxer endures…

From page A27

his first crown, the Philippine lighweight championship, then the Philippine Boxing Federation’s junior welterweight crown the year after.

Fear of Pelonia

Quite unfortunately for him, his reputation as a hard puncher and a quick finisher reached the Japanese boxing circles. Suddenly, not many were willing to engage him in a battle, and the five fighters who did so all got knocked out.

The ensuing “fear of Pelonia” was attractive on paper, if not on one boxer’s ego. But definitely not when Pelonia began looking at his purse and remembered his family back home.

From 1994 to 1997, he fought only eight times, a far cry from his high expectations.

Boxing pays well in Japan with a non-title fight probably averaging somewhere between P80,000 and P90,000 today, he says.

“But it’s a different story if you’d get only three bouts in a year and do nothing, earn nothing in between,” he explains.

Pelonia and his fellow Filipino boxers eventually developed an “OFW” mentality. Each one was convinced Japan was no place to bum around, especially if one had a loved one going hungry.

Pelonia maintained a grueling daily schedule that covered both his boxing training and side jobs.

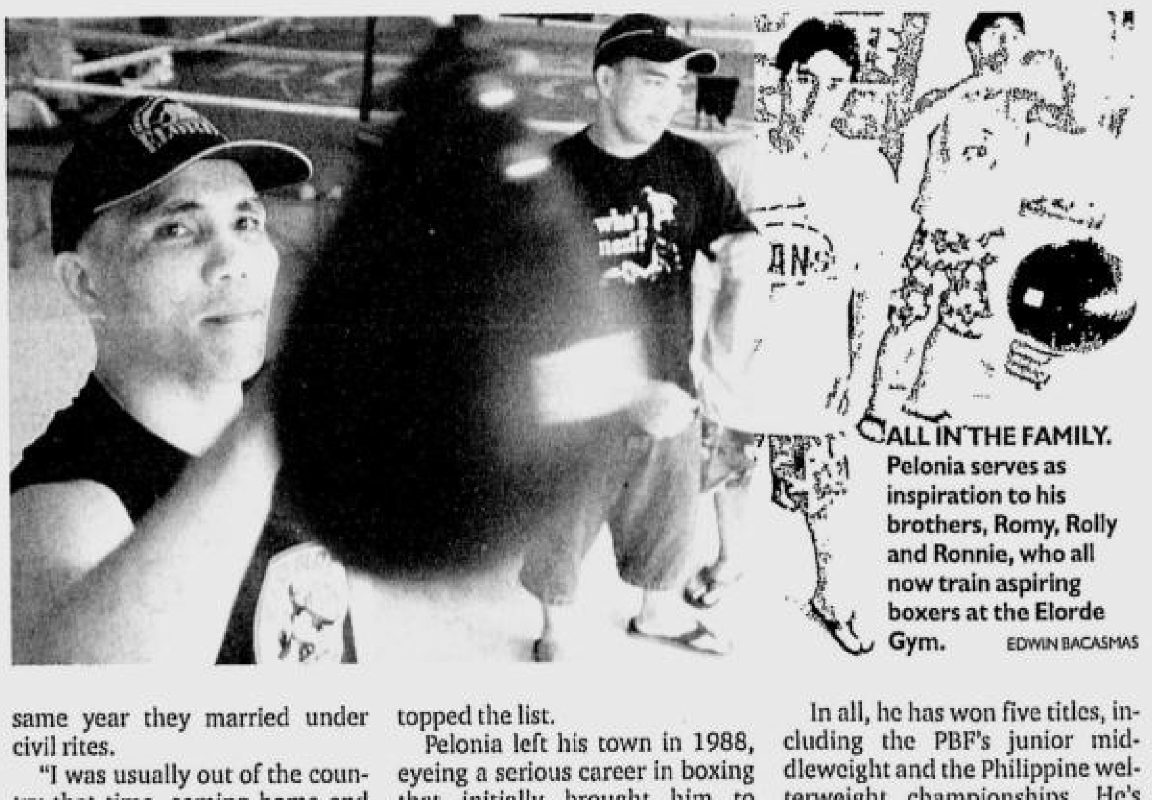
5 hours of sleep

He would wake up at 6 a.m. and set off for work from 8:30 to 5 p.m. The next four hours he would spend for a quick dinner and serious training. By 10 p.m., he’s off to a second job, picking up golf balls. He would collapse in bed only around 1 a.m.

Pelonia didn’t mind if he usually slept only five hours or less. Odd jobs they may be, they paid quite handsomely, an average of P2,000 daily, he says.

The fruits of his hardwork is a modest house he had built for his wife in Bacolod City. He also managed to refurbish the family’s old, rundown bungalow in Barangay Conel, General Santos.

He never really got to enjoy his Bacolod house. For one thing, he says it never flourished into a home. His wife, perennially displeased by his frequent trips abroad, left him in 1994, the same year they married under civil rites.


ALL IN THE FAMILY. Pelonia serves as inspiration to his brothers, Romy, Rolly and Ronnie, who all now train aspiring boxers at the Elorde Gym. EDWIN BACASMAS

“I was usually out of the country that time, coming home and staying only for about two weeks, then leaving again. She couldn’t live with that so we called it quits,” he recalls.

Pelonia’s own family was similarly suffering from his absence. But unlike his estranged wife, they knew he had his reasons and priorities. And their future topped the list.

Pelonia left his town in 1988, eyeing a serious career in boxing that initially brought him to Davao then Cebu. Soon he was slugging it out with tougher opponents in Canada, Australia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea.

“At first, I was afraid of boxing. But the moment I stepped in the ring, I didn’t want to leave anymore,” he recalls.

In all, he has won five titles, including the PBF’s junior middleweight and the Philippine welterweight championships. He’s the defending World Boxing Foundation’s International welterweight champion.

Homecoming

By the time he returned to Conel, his siblings were kids no more. All of them were now looking up to him as a long-lost brother, if not a second father.

Some of them wanted to be boxers too, like Romy, 31, Larry, 29, Ronnie, 20, and Rolly, 19. He shared the knowledge and skills but preferred that they get a formal education first.

“Boxing is no joke, your life is on the line each time you step in the ring,” he would tell them. “You can’t say that you’re good. There’s a time when a fight is just not for you to win.”

Larry went on earning an automotive course and capturing the Pan Asian Boxing Association’s lightweight championship. The three others have joined Pelonia as trainers at Elorde’s boxing gym in Quezon City.

Eighteen years of boxing are etched in the face of Pelonia, permanent lumps on both cheeks, crisscrossing scars on the eyebrows. Not to mention one injury that saw blood spurting out of his left ear. He couldn’t hear for a month.

He never reached the level of his superstar town mate Manny Pacquiao.

But with a heart probably just as big and priorities all too clear, the man’s got no regrets.

“Having been there for my family, that’s more than enough consolation for me,” he says.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Australian climber left for dead on Everest walks back to base camp

SYDNEY—IN AN ASTONISHING FEAT of survival, an Australian mountaineer left for dead shortly after conquering the summit of Mount Everest has been found alive and walked back to base camp Saturday in "reasonably good" condition, a colleague said.

Lincoln Hall, 50, had been reported dead by his expedition teammates after reaching the 8,848-meter summit of Everest on Thursday but then succumbing to acute altitude sickness as he began his descent.

Hall, one of Australia's most experienced climbers, became disoriented, lay down in the snow and resisted attempts by accompanying sherpas to help him, according to an account of the incident posted on the Internet by his expedition leader, Alexander Abramov.

The two sherpas with Hall were forced to leave him behind when they ran out of oxygen and Abramov issued a statement Friday that the Australian was dead.

But another team of climbers led by American Dan Mazur came upon Hall several hours later and found the Australian alive.

Mazur radioed the news back to camp and in a rescue operation involving about a dozen sherpas and a Russian doctor, Hall was brought to safety.

The initial decision to leave Hall on the mountain and the erroneous reports of his death are likely to revive debate about the ethics and practices of the high-priced Everest expeditions.

Last week a British climber, David Sharp, 34, died on Everest after being passed by up to 40 climbers who said they were unable to help him. *AFP*

US telecom giants sued over spying

SAN FRANCISCO—LAWSUITS FILED IN San Francisco on Friday called for punishment of telecom giants AT and T and Verizon for handing customers' phone records to US government spies.

The American Civil Liberties Union (Aclu) claimed in lawsuits filed in California State Court that the US telecoms secretly provided subscriber information to the National Security Agency (NSA).

AT and T and Verizon broke state law by secretly giving the NSA telephone records of millions of California customers, according to the Aclu.

"On a massive scale, AT and T and Verizon have violated one of our most precious rights: the right to privacy guaranteed by our state constitution," Dorothy Ehrlich, executive director of the Aclu of Northern California, said in a statement.

"In the face of this unprecedented illegal and unconstitutional activity, we call upon the court to order AT and T and Verizon to stop turning over Californians' phone records to the government."

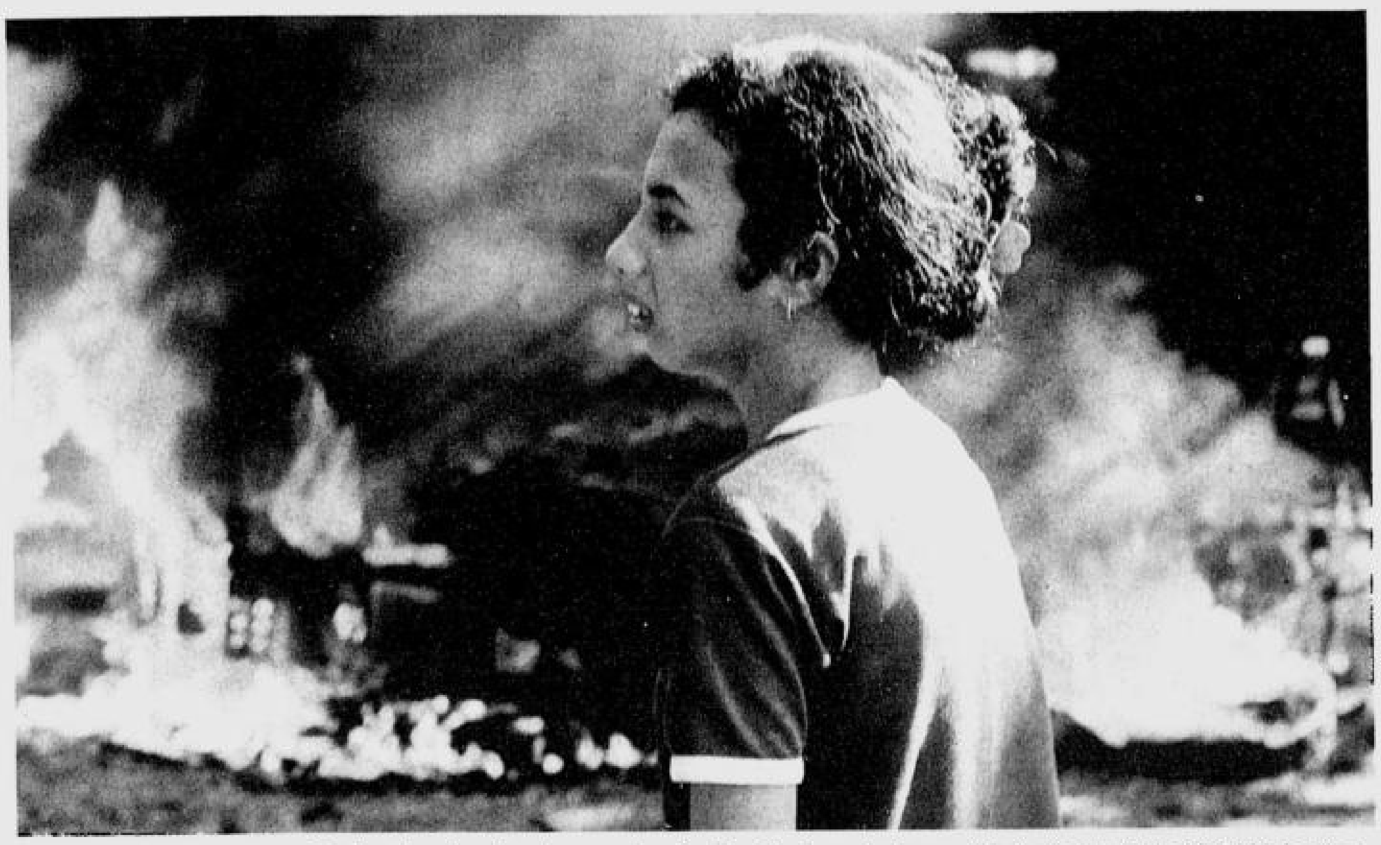
The suit called on the court to declare the telecoms violated privacy rights and to bar the companies from providing the NSA with information about people's telephone calls.

The suit also demanded that the companies pay the legal fees involved with the suit, as well as unspecified damages.

California law prohibits telephone companies from supplying other people with caller information without getting written permission from the subscribers, according to the Aclu.

"With the help of AT and T and Verizon, the NSA has assembled the largest database in the world," Nicole Ozer, Aclu director of technology and civil liberties policy, said in a statement.

US President George W. Bush authorized the collection of "one-end foreign" telephone calls and e-mails to "counter the al-Qaida threat" in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Negroponte indicated in US District Court paperwork. *AFP*



AN EAST Timorese woman looks at her burning house set on fire by attackers during an ethnic dispute in the Villa Verde area of Dili, May 27, between native Western Timorese and Eastern Timorese. Violence returned to the streets of Dili as civilians from rival ethnic groups clashed in the East Timor capital in the latest challenge to face international peacekeepers. AFP

Violence returns to Dili

DILI—EAST TIMOR'S CAPITAL ERUPTED IN VIOLENCE Saturday as ethnic gangs battled in the streets against a backdrop of automatic weapons fire and thousands of people fleeing for safety.

Smoke billowed from houses and cars set alight by mobs from different parts of the tiny country, and security appeared to be breaking down in areas close to the center of the city.

The task of bringing peace to Dili was slipping from the grasp of Australian and other foreign troops as youths armed with daggers, machetes and slingshots rampaged through Dili.

Terrified people armed with machetes stood guard outside their homes as communities turned on each other and rumors abounded of mobs moving in.

The UN ordered the evacuation of non-essential staff as people on the streets said they feared the violence would explode into civil war.

AFP correspondents in Dili said that peace prevailed only where and when foreign troops were present. As soon as the troops moved on, mob violence broke out anew.

"This is a communal dispute that's escalated because of the overall situation," a UN official said. "It's basically payback time between the different groups."

Australian troops began arriving Thursday after East Timor's government called for international help to stop bloodshed in and around Dili between soldiers and renegade troops.

The renegades, numbering almost half the 1,400-strong Timorese military, were sacked last month after protesting what they alleged was discrimination against soldiers from the west of the country.

The Australian Defense Force (ADF) said its commander on the ground, Brig. Mick Slater, would meet rebel leader Maj. Alfredo Reinado Saturday after receiving agreement from other factions to cooperate with peace efforts.

"We will get the military to return to its barracks. We will get the police to return to their barracks and we will get the different dissident groups that are apparent on the scene to move back into their home environments," ADF vice chief Lt. Gen. Ken Gillespie told reporters in Canberra. *AFP*

Iraq backs Iran's right to develop nuke power

BAGHDAD—IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER Hoshyar Zebari on Friday endorsed the right of Iran to pursue the "technological and scientific capabilities" to create nuclear power for peaceful purposes, but shied away from the subject of uranium enrichment, which the United States says could allow Iran to build a nuclear weapon.

Zebari's statement, made at a news conference on Friday after a meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, appeared deliberately to be ambiguous, and reflected the sensitive position of Iraq, which is caught between the US and Iran.

The US has led an international standoff to get Iran to abandon efforts to enrich uranium that Iran says it needs to create fuel for nuclear reactors. At the same time, many members of the Shiite-led government of Iraq have longstanding ties to Iran.

Friday's meeting was the first high-level gathering between the new government of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki of Iraq and its eastern neighbor. The gathering was also the government's first opportunity to tackle what is sure to be one of the most divisive issues it faces: the influence that Iran wields in Iraq.

Al-Maliki and nearly half of the Iraqi parliament are members of the dominant Shiite political coalition; but Sunni Arabs, Kurds and secular Shiites account for about half of the Cabinet appointments in al-Maliki's administration.

To varying degrees, many politicians in these blocs are wary of Iran's influence as Iraq face a series of huge challenges: the struggle to defeat a resilient Sunni insurgency and to marginalize powerful Shiite militias, as well as the need to find a way to pay for its reconstruction and security programs as US financing is curtailed. *NYT*

Burma junta extends Suu Kyi house arrest

RANGOON—BURMA'S MILITARY RULERS Saturday extended the house arrest of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi despite an international outcry demanding her freedom.

"It has been extended," an official said, declining to confirm for how long.

The Nobel peace laureate's detention was last extended by six months in November, but in the last week hopes swelled among her supporters that she might be released as her arrest came under review this weekend.

The extension came as her National League for Democracy was marking the 16th anniversary of its landslide victory in 1990 elections, which the junta has never recognized.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made a direct appeal on Friday to junta leader Gen. Than Shwe, urging him to free Suu Kyi.

Just hours after his appeal, a police officer made a 10-minute visit to her home. Lwin, a spokesperson for her National League for Democracy, said the police had delivered a message, but he could not say what it contained.

The UN chief declined to answer reporters' questions about the extension as he left Bangkok at the end of a five-nation Asian tour, but Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon said he was disappointed.

"I was hoping the release would come today. It was a good opportunity for the international community to work with Myanmar," he said.

Officials in Burma (also known as Myanmar) would not say how long her house arrest had been extended, but sources close to the military and analysts said the junta could have been negotiating to loosen the restrictions on her.

"I think they tried to get her to accept conditional release but she refused," one source close to the military said.

Military analyst Win Min said in Bangkok that the junta may have loosened their restrictions just by allowing her to meet with visiting UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari one week ago.

SUU KYI in 2002 photo AFP

"The Gambari visit was to reduce international pressure, that's it," he said. "The best they can offer is more access when the UN visits."

Just four weeks ago, few in her National League for Democracy party would have dared thought that the nation's military rulers would even consider releasing her.

The military had cracked down on the party, intimidating members into resigning and threatening to outlaw the NLD over alleged "terrorist" links.

Her latest period of detention began nearly three years ago, after her convoy was ambushed as she made a political tour in northern Burma.

The junta says four people were killed in the attack, but the NLD put the toll at nearly 100.

After the ambush, Suu Kyi was held in secret—initially at the notorious Insein prison outside Rangoon—until being transferred to her home amid vocal international protests.

Decades of economic mismanagement by the military have left Burma one of the world's poorest countries.

It has one of the highest rates of HIV and tuberculosis infection in Asia, and the World Food Program estimates that 40 percent of children here are malnourished. *AFP*

Kissinger called Japanese 'sons of bitches'

WASHINGTON—HENRY KISSINGER called Japanese "treacherous sons of bitches" for wanting normal relations with China, when he was trusted aide to president Richard Nixon, according to documents declassified Friday.

The outburst by national security adviser Kissinger came just before Nixon met Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka at a summit in Hawaii in August 1972, according to transcripts of talks between the powerful negotiator and local and foreign officials released by the National Security Archive.

When Kissinger learned that Tanaka was to travel to China to establish diplomatic ties, he lividly reacted, "Of all the treacherous sons of bitches, the Japs take the cake."

"It's not just their indecent haste in normalizing relations with China, but they even picked National Day as their preference to go there," Kissinger said at a meeting in his hotel room with then US envoy to South Vietnam Ellsworth Bunker.

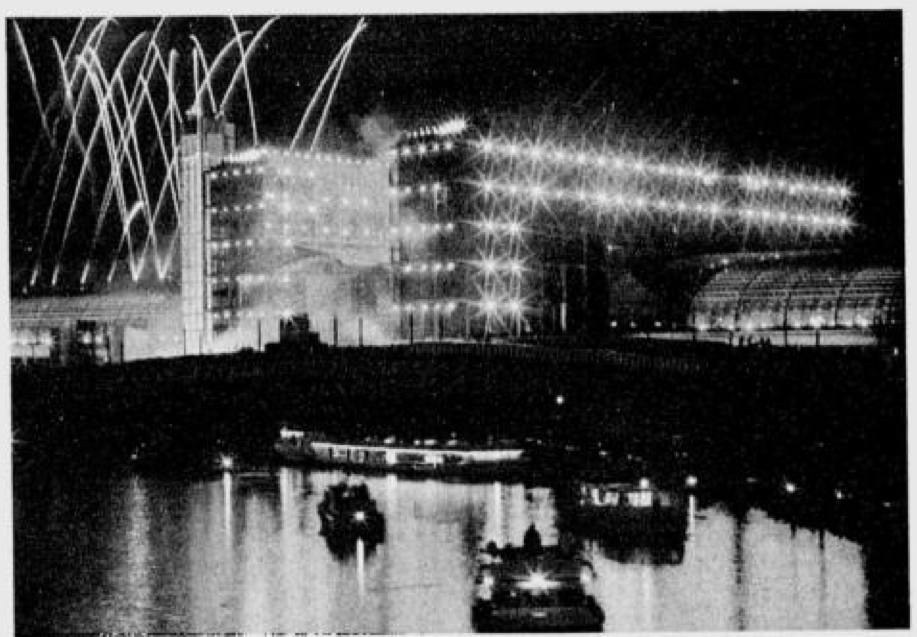
Kissinger was angry apparently because Japan, a key US ally, defied the foreign policy of the US, which at that time had diplomatic ties only with Taiwan.

Tanaka established diplomatic relations with China on September 29, 1972, a year after the UN expelled Taiwan in favor of China.

It was only seven years later that the US restored formal links with Beijing and severed official diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Nixon however made a landmark visit to China much earlier—in February 1972—to end 20 years of frosty relations between the two countries.

Kissinger's outburst is an example, confirmed by other documents, of his often difficult, sometimes antagonistic, relationship with Japan, a society that he had great difficulty understanding, said the National Security Archive. *AFP*



FIREWORKS explode over Berlin's new Hauptbahnhof (central railway station) during its inauguration along the river Spree, in Berlin May 26. It will be Europe's biggest station, bringing a project dreamt up in the heady early days of reunification to fruition just in time for the football World Cup 2006. AFP

Knife-wielder injures 25 as Berlin opens largest train station in Europe

BERLIN—A KNIFE-WIELDING TEENAGER went on a rampage and attacked at random pedestrians streaming away from a sound-and-light show in the heart of the capital, wounding 25 people, four of them seriously, police said Saturday.

The 17-year-old suspected attacker, a German native of Berlin's working-class Neukoelln district, was arrested, police spokesperson Bernhard Schodrowski said. None of the victims had life-threatening injuries, Schodrowski said.

The teenager, whose identity was not released, had mingled with crowds a couple of hours after a sound-and-light show inaugurating Berlin's new central rail station in the heart of the capital before he began to randomly attack people.

The attack comes amid a rash of racially motivated crimes, including several in Berlin, that have raised concern about security two weeks before Germany hosts the football World Cup.

Several hundred thousand onlookers had packed the city center to watch the festive inauguration of the city's new main train station, touted as the largest in Europe and the final major construction project for the German capital's government sector.

Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the opening ceremonies—several hours before the attack occurred—praising the new, light-flooded station as a symbolic bridge between Germany's formerly divided east and west.

"It is a modern, open building, symbolic for Berlin and for Germany," said Merkel, whose chancellery is a neighbor to the new construction that straddles the path of the former Berlin Wall, which divided the city during the Cold War.

Construction took eight years and the project cost an estimated euro 800 million ($1 billion). Some 300,000 passengers a day are expected to use the station's 14 platforms. *AP*

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Strange stays on top alone after even card

La'O keeps RP bid alive as Pagunsan crumbles

JUVIC Pagunsan takes a swing at Hole No. 5. The top Filipino bet undid his work in the first two rounds with a disastrous stint in his last three holes. Pagunsan, however, feels he is still within striking distance. RUDY ESPERAS

By Musong R. Castillo

SCOTT STRANGE HAS BECOME A FAMILIAR NAME AT the top of the 90th Philippine Open leaderboard.

But it was strange that Juvic Pagunsan fell victim to an unexpected collapse yesterday.

Strange stayed composed despite the sweltering heat on a course that displayed its toughest form yet and grimly clung to the lead which Pagunsan clearly had in his sights before making a mess out of his final three holes that dampened his chances.

The 29-year-old Australian matched par 72 to keep the lead by his lonesome, while Pagunsan submitted a 74 to fall six shots off after coming to within two strokes going into the unpredictable closing holes of Wack Wack East.

"It's frustrating," Strange said of his round played in temperatures that soared past 34-degrees Celsius. "It's pretty sapping. It's a grind. You're drinking as much (water) as you can but it keeps coming out."

A native of Perth, Strange, took a one-shot advantage over former winner Chang Ting-yeh of Taiwan, who turned in a 73, with a 210 aggregate. He will enter the final round holding a 54-hole lead for the first time in his young Asian Tour career.

But that doesn't mean that he's not experienced it before—and that he doesn't know how to close it out.

"I've won a handful back home in Australia," Strange told the INQUIRER. "I've had decent success as far as 54-hole leads go. But I can't be complacent because you can't fool around in a course like this one."

As Pagunsan faltered, Cookie La'O became the brightest local hope after a 70 gave him a 214 total for a share of third with Englishman Chris Rodgers, who skied to a 75. They trailed Strange by four.

La'O, whose best finish as a pro was second to Antonio Lascuña in the rich, but locals-only The Country Club last year, had five birdies against three bogeys.

Pagunsan climbed to 5-under overall with three birdies in his first 15 holes only to finish bogey-double bogey-double bogey.

Juvic, who three-putted the last two holes, dropped to a share of seventh, six shots off with a 216 total like Angelo Que, who fired a 70.

Pagunsan's undoing came on the 16th, a short par-4 where he was left with a 110-yard pitching wedge for his approach. He spun his ball so hard that it found the water hazard guarding the front of the green to drop his first shot for the day.

Pagunsan, the top Filipino and low amateur here the last two years, dropped another two shots on the "Camel Back," the infamous 17th hole of the East course which has been the graveyard of many an aspiring champion's dreams, by finding the left trap off the tee.

He then drove the 18th with a 2-iron to the left tree-lined rough and found the rightmost bunker in his approach. His blast left him 15 feet to the hole and he missed a four-footer for bogey.

"I still have a chance, the game is not over yet," Pagunsan said in Filipino. "I just had a nightmare in the last three holes."

The 38-year-old Yeh, whose 1993 victory at Southwoods does not count in his two Asian Tour wins, turned in a 36-37 with three birdies to show against four bogeys. He started with two 69s.

Fellow Taiwanese Hsieh Chin-sheng fired a 71 to tie compatriot Wei Lan-lu (72) while Canadian Rick Gibson, the winner when Wack Wack last hosted the Open in 2002, turned in a 75 for 217.

Defending champion Adam Le Vesconte of Australia cracked par for the first time, submitting a 70 for 220 even as Robert Pactolerin shot an 81 for 225 after a 70 got him within range on Friday.

Jay Bayron fired a 73 and wrested the amateur lead over Marvin Dumandan, whose 75 gave him a 222, one behind the former caddies' champion.

The third round scores

210 - Scott Strange (Aus) 68-70-72

211 - Yeh Chang-ting (Tpe) 69-69-73

214 - Cookie Lao 70-74-70, C. Rodgers (Eng) 70-69-75

215 - Hsieh Chin-sheng (Tpe) 71-73-71, Lu Wei-lan (Tpe) 69-74-72

216 - Angelo Que 1-75-70, Adam Porker (Aus) 73-72-71, Unho Park (Aus) 72-71-73, Juvic Pagunsan 72-70-74

217 - Richard Moir (Aus) 77-69-71, S.S.P. Chowrasia (Ind) 74-72-71, Gary Simpson (Aus) 71-72-74, Marcus Both (Aus) 73-70-74, Rick Gibson (Can) 70-72-75

218 - Gurbaaz Mann (Ind) 73-73-72, Uttam Singh Mundy (Ind) 75-74-69, Park Jun-won (Kor 75-74-69, Anthony Kang (US) 72-72-74, Soe Kyaw Naing (Myn) 72-70-76

219 - Kevin Chun (NZ) 70-77-72, Elmer Salvador 78-70-71, Richard Lee (NZ) 73-75-71, Jason Dawes (Aus) 70-75-74, Gerald Rosales 73-72-74, Barry Hume (Sco) 69-76-74

220 - Gary Rusnak (US) 73-74-73, Rashid Ismail (Mas) 72-76-72, Poh Eng Wah (Sin) 73-73-74,

Jochen Lupprian (Ger) 72-76-72, Alistair Presnell (Aus) 73-75-72, Jason Knutzon (US) 73-71-76, Peter Karmis (RSA) 75-75-70, Adam Le Vesconte (Aus) 74-76-70

221 - Simon Nash (Aus) 69-77-75, Marciano Pucay 72-75-74, Jay Bayron (a) 75-73-73, Adam Blyth (Aus) 71-77-73, Airil Rizman Zahari (Mas) 73-70-78

222 - Wang Ter-chang (Tpe) 74-72-76, Chen Tze-chung (Tpe) 74-73-75, Marvin Dumandan (a), Bran Saltus (US) 74-72-76, Jerome Delariarte 76-69-77, John Wither (Sco) 74-75-73, Larry Austin (Aus) 74-71-77, Gavin Flint (Aus) 74-76-72.

Air21, Coke gun for slot in quarters

AIR21 IS ADOPTING A NOTHING-TO-LOSE mentality against a Coca-Cola team craving for a win in their playoff for an automatic quarterfinal seat in the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup.

STANDINGS	W	L
*Purefoods	12	4
*San Miguel	11	5
x-Red Bull	9	7
x-Alaska	9	7
Coca-Cola	7	9
Air21	7	9
Ginebra	7	9
Talk 'N Text	6	10
Sta. Lucia	4	12

*Assured of outright semifinal berth

x-Assured of outright quarterfinal berth

GAME TODAY

(Araneta Coliseum)

6 p.m.—Air21 vs Coca-Cola (playoff for last quarterfinal slot)

After closing the classification round by bowing to Talk 'N Text the other night and losing their chance to advance outright, the Tigers need to boost their morale with a victory over the Express today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The loser goes into the wildcard phase, a single-round battle for survival among the last four teams in the standings.

The winner moves up against the Alaska Aces in a best-of-five quarterfinal duel. The wildcard survivor, meanwhile, gets Red Bull as quarterfinal foe in another best-of-five.

"We are already proud with what we have achieved given the major adjustments in our lineup," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol, who shipped shooter Renren Ritualo and guard Patrick Fran to the Phone Pals recently. "We don't want to pressure ourselves though we're aware of the benefits of advancing (outright) into the quarterfinals."

Brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo combined in a fourth-quarter assault as the Express put one over the San Miguel Beermen at the end of their classification round mission.

Rookie Niño Canaleta, who set a personal-high 31 points, is fast shaping up as Air21's go-to guy.

The back-to-back slam dunk king is only the first rookie to lead his team in scoring with 15 points a game since Danny Seigle and Asi Taulava did the trick in the 1999 All-Filipino Cup.

"I told him not to be conscious about it," said Perasol, whose Express (7-9) wound up in a triple tie with the Tigers and the Barangay Ginebra Kings after the classification round.

"He knows the team's offense is not built around him," he added. *June Navarro*

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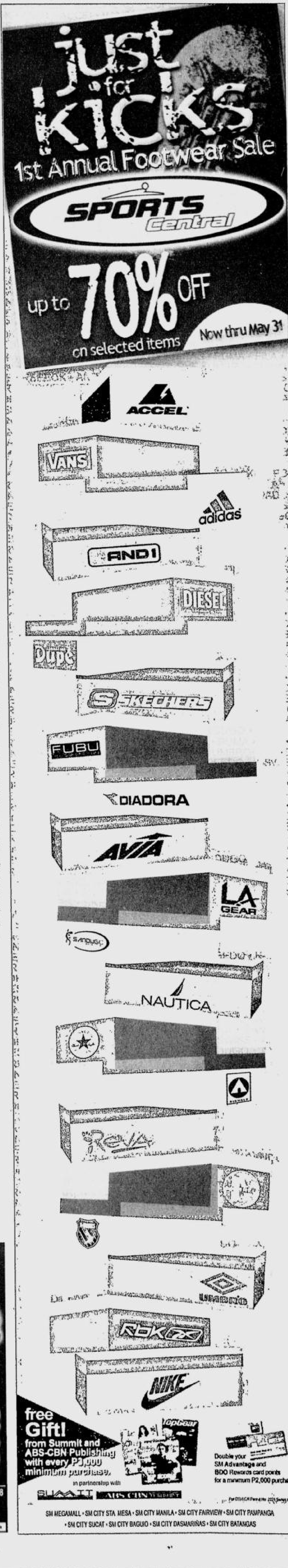

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Toyota Otis nips Rain or Shine; Portmasters triumph

GAMES TUESDAY (Olivarez Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Toyota Otis
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Montaña

CONTINUING ITS STRING OF SOLID plays, top-ranked Toyota Otis repulsed defending champion Rain or Shine, 64-59, yesterday to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-five semifinal series in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center.

Joe Devance poured in six of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, while Aaron Aban finished with eight markers including two clutch free throws with 11.4 seconds remaining that sealed the win.

"It was a collective effort," said Sparks coach Louie Alas. "Our goal was to limit their offense to 65 points, which we did."

Harbour Centre claimed the other semis opener after averting a late-game collapse to down Montaña Pawnshop, 85-79.

The Portmasters seemed headed for a blowout win with a comfortable 34-point cushion, 63-29, but nearly blew the huge advantage as the Jewels rallied to trim the margin to just four points, 83-79, in the final minute.

Understandably, Portmasters coach Jorge Gallent was furious despite the upset victory against the second-seeded Jewels.

"The players relaxed too much," said Gallent. "When we had the big lead, the players stopped their attack. We have to correct that in our next game."

Fast becoming the most effective sixth man in the tournament, Chico Lanete delivered a game-high 21 points highlighted by a clutch jumper and two buffer free throws in the final minute for Harbour Centre.

"Good thing Chico bailed us out in this game," noted Gallent.

With the Portmasters still up at 81-71, Alex Compton strung up four points to push the Jewels within six, 81-75.

But Lanete fired a jumper at the 1:09 mark for 83-75 then the backup point guard completed his heroics by nailing his free throws with 9.7 seconds remaining after the Jewels threatened at 83-79.

Lanete and Ryan Araña fueled the Portmasters' 23-3 rally that staked them to a 42-23 lead after trailing at 19-20 in the second period.

The Jewels rallied behind Eric dela Cuesta, Paul Guerrero and rookie Larry Rodriguez in the second half to bring the deficit down to 11 points, 74-63, midway in the fourth period.

Then Ronjay Enrile buried a triple that pushed the Painters within 58-56 with 48 seconds remaining. *Jasmine W. Payo*

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 85—Lanete 21, Reyes 16, Yeo 12, Arana 11, Chia 7, Coching 6, Maierhoffer 6, Tenorio 4, Gaco 2, Gamboa 0.

MONTAÑA 79—Rodriguez 14, Compton 14, Vergara 13, Magpayo 9, Dela Cuesta 8, Bono 7, Bagulon 6, Guerrero 6, Bonus 2, Buenafe 0, Espiritu 0, Atablanco 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 56-25, 68-44, 85-79

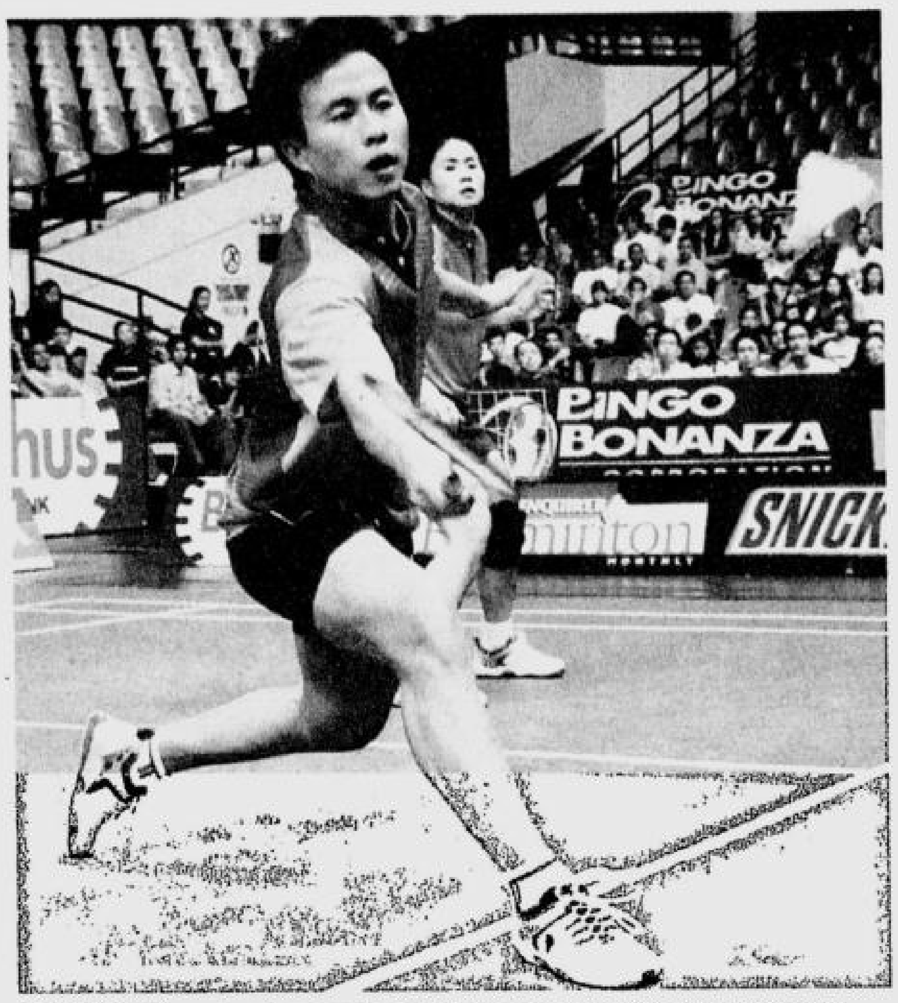
Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 64—Devance 12, Aban 8, Rodriguez 7, Bautista 6, Coronel 6, Andaya 5, Aldave 5, Casio 5, Daa 4, Fajardo 4, Oreta 2.

RAIN OR SHINE 59—Tangkay 16, Ortiguerra 11, Enrile 9, Reyes 6, Tan 5, Cabatu 2, Sta. Maria 2, Malabanan 1, Yambao 0.

Quarters: 12-14, 31-27, 48-37, 64-59

Asuncions gain milestone



KENNEVIC Asuncion chases a drop shot as he teams up with sister Kennie to propel the Philippines into the mixed doubles finals. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FLASHING A COMBINATION OF SPEED AND SPUNK, siblings Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion upstaged their vaunted Indonesian foes in straight sets last night and achieved a career milestone by reaching the finals of the Bingo Bonanza Philippine Badminton Open at the Philsports.

The lone Filipino survivors in the four-star tourney pulled off yet another surprise after eliminating 2000 Sydney Olympics silver winners Tri Kusharjanto and Minarti Timur, 21-15, 21-18, to gain a shot at the mixed doubles championship for the first time.

"We were even surprised that we beat them in straight sets," said Kennevic, whose partnership with his sister will be fully tested by the world No. 11 pair of Saralee Thoungthongkam and Sudeket Parapakamol of Thailand in the finals at 2 p.m. today.

The Thai team outclassed Indonesia's Muhamad Rizal and Gresya Polii, 21-16, 21-16, in the other semis.

"This is just the third time we will play against them," said Kennie, who admitted she and her brother had lost both their previous matches against the Thais.

In the men's singles, brothers Hafiz and Roslin Hashim set up a finals duel after bundling out their respective rivals.

Hashim, the top seed here and No. 11 in the world, showcased his crowd-pleasing moves to beat third seed and world No. 19 Boonsak Ponsana of Thailand, 21-19, 21-13. Roslin later made it a family affair by fashioning out a 21-15, 21-19 upset of second seed Wei Ng of Hong Kong.

Indian giant killer Saina Nehwal outlasted Ai Goto of Japan, 21-19, 20-22, 21-14, to also make it to the finals. Nehwal, who eliminated top seed and world No. 4 Xu Huaiwen of Germany in the quarters, will battle Malaysia's Pei Xian Julia Wong, a 21-17, 21-14 winner over Japan's Chie Umezu.

The Filipino pair, currently ranked 69th in the world, concentrated their attack on Timur, who appeared to be off-form and was always a step too late.

Midway through the first set, it was obvious that the celebrated Indonesians were well past their prime and victory was ready for the picking.

The Filipinos, younger and more confident, zoomed to an 8-1 lead in the opening set but their overweight foes clawed back to close in at 10-8 on Kusharjanto's superb corner shots.

Fighting RP belles fall to Kazakhstan

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS A LOSS THE PHILIPPINE TEAM GRAciously accepted.

Getting progressively better, the Philippines displayed impressive attacking flair before bowing to Kazakhstan, 25-20, 25-17, 25-17, in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
China	4	0
C.-Taipei	3	1
Kazakhstan	2	1
Japan	1	2
Thailand	1	2
Philippines	1	3
Indonesia	0	3

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Garuda (Indonesia) vs Chung Shan (Chinese-Taipei)
4 p.m.—Sang Som (Thailand) vs Hisamitsu Seiyaku Springs (Japan)
6 p.m.—Tianjin Bridgestone (China) vs Rahat (Kazakhstan)

"I'm happy with our performance in this game, we were able to execute," said Philippine coach Constante Reyes. "We're improving every game, we played one step higher."

Xeniya Imangaliyeva delivered 10 points, including nine kills, to lead Kazakhstan to its second win in three games.

In the second match, Chinese-Taipei kept solo second after downing Thailand, 25-21, 25-19, 25-16, for a 3-1 card.

Nai Han Ku completely dominated the game to finish with a match-high 13 kills, three blocks and two aces.

After tightly contesting the opener, the Philippines continued to follow the aggressive lead of collegiate standout Mary Jean Balse.

With Balse hammering four consecutive kills, the local bets kept pace with the taller Kazakhs at 8-7 in the second stanza.

The Philippines continued to turn to Balse and Cherry Rose Macatangay, before Imangaliyeva and team captain Olga Grushko rallied Kazakhstan to claim the set at 25-17.

Even in the final canto, Kazakhstan couldn't completely run off with an easy victory as the Philippines sliced the lead to 22-16 after a 20-9 deficit.

Balse finished with a match-best 12 kills and one block in the Philippines' third straight loss in four games.

China remained unbeaten in four games after disposing Japan, 25-19, 26-24, 25-18, in the closing match.

Policarpio leads race finalists

SIX RACERS SHOWED THEIR WORTH AFTER two legs and made it to the third and final stage of the C! Top Driver Challenge 4 organized by Tuason Racing School (TRS) and powered by Ford racing recently.

Making it through the Karting Challenge held at the Manila Speedzone were Francis Santos-Viola, Joward Policarpio, Terrence Lallave, Julius Yparraguire, Niño Corpuz and Jon Tyrell Esguerra.

The six survivors slipped through a stringent format that saw them race against six other drivers in racing karts that involved a practice run, qualifying time trial, pre-final and final race, where they were arranged in a reverse grid—slowest to latest—to assure equal opportunity for all participants.

Each stage of the Karting Challenge is given a specific weighted percentage. Qualifying accounted for 20 percent, while the pre-final and final carried 30 and 40 percent of the total score, respectively, and instructors awarded an additional 10 points based on their observation.

NCRFA belles stamp class

BAGUIO—THE NATIONAL CAPITAL Region Football Association (NCRFA) U-17 lady booters showed too much class recently, never allowing a goal in ruling the Baguio Ladies' Invitational Cup at the Brent School pitch here.

Its core made up of the De La Salle-Zobel squad, NCRFA first mangled Laguna, 18-0, before holding off the hosts, 4-0 to win the crown via a sweep.

Laguna, which nipped Baguio in the other game, 1-0, pocketed second place in the compact tournament which served as the highlight of a busy football festival where a 7-a-side tournament was also played.

The teams that played the Baguio event were those that did not join the Philippine Football Federation U17 Women's Championship in San Carlos City in protest of the PFF's decision to allow associate members to join tournaments.

"We did not play there because doing so would mean that we are in favor of the PFF's decision to make associate members play," NCRFA president Jose Vito Borromeo said.

"Making associate members play in a national championship is a clear violation of the PFF's constitution and by-laws," said Jun Pacificador, the Laguna Football Association president.

"And we don't want to have anything to do with tournaments that violate our constitution."

Trisha Espino, a junior at La Salle-Zobel, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

85 players selected for national softball pool

EIGHTY-FIVE PLAYERS, 46 IN THE men's divisions and 39 in the women's category, have been selected to form the national softball training pool where the Philippine Blu Boys and Blu Girls will come from.

The list, according to Amateur Softball Association-Philippines president Mario Raymundo, was recommended by a selection committee, headed by softball great Filomeno "Boy" Cordiñera, based on their performances in the recent national open hosted early this month by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Men's Red—Rogelio Rojas, Sonny Acuna, Victor Enriquez, Louis dela Cruz, Marlon Pagkaliwagan, Jacinto Ilao, S. Terones, Isidro Abello, Reymond Mariano, Dennis Daep, Darius Bacarisas, Marvin Malig, Anthony Santos, Manuel Bacarias, Jerry Estanislao, Fidel Moncera, Gilmak Ilao, Provo Aranzaso, Jasper Cabrera, Manolito Binarao, Carmelo Bastida, Ruben Angeles and Joey Guerrero.

Men's Blue—Marciano Sta. Maria, Florante Acuna, Ronilon Pagkaliwagan, George Marquez, Gilbert Roxas, Dario Malate, Elvin Buluran, Danilo Landicho, Rieal Santos, Jayson Santos, Mark Rey Ramirez, Gener Romano, Benjamin Maravilles, Roland Slacor, Apolonio Rosales, Louie San Miguel, Oscar Bradshaw, Isaac Libunao, Romy Bumagat, Brendo dela Cruz, Ian Empacis, Melvin Villegas and Boy Peralta.

Women's Blue—Cloiene Muyco, Nelsa Delagente, Joy Lasquete, Frska Catignas, Tintin Laurenciano, Luvelyn Maganda, May Cabuguason, Jessel Taladtad, Marivis Hugos, Yocel Aguilar, Marycris Guidalanon, Karen Aribal, Alexandra Zuluaga, Harlyn Tubungbanua, Sheiryloyu Valenzuela, Beblan Deala, Ma. Liza Gaylon, Sarah Agravante, Loverly Parohinog, Elma Parohinog and Thinsey de Jose.

Women's Red—Haide Arca, Corazon Sobere, Dione Macasu, Syril Ramos, Bernadette Atole, Belen Asok, Heydee Bongas, Gina Salvador, Maila Sanoy, Esmeralda Tayag, Maricar Barrientos, Alex Causapin, Nimfa Baral, Sherry Has, Aileen Abello, Jenny de Jesus, Nelia Lara and Baby Arceo.

Rooting when there's reason to root

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF YOU HAVE A DIRK NOWITZKI IN your team, points pour in like rain in the wet season. Nonstop—almost.

Add Josh Howard, who wasn't supposed to play yesterday.

Nowitzki, healthy as ever, and Howard, bucking an ankle injury to become Dallas' surprise package, gave coach Avery Johnson a combined 59 points yesterday as the Mavericks manhandled the Phoenix Suns, 105-98.

The win tied the NBA Western Conference series at one game apiece but more importantly, it restored order in Dallas.

In Game 1, Dallas blew a 6-point margin with under 2 minutes left sparked by a three and a drive for a 5-0 blast by Steve Nash. Then, with .04 remaining, Boris Diaw hit the winning jumper.

Clearly, a lapse in defense in the dying seconds did Dallas in.

Not yesterday.

Up by 96-89 after a short stab by Howard at the 4:02 mark, the Mavericks, learning from the lesson of Game 1, tightened their grip of the game to win with plenty to spare.

Six of Nowitzki's 30 points came in the last 1:29 of the game in a 10-7 Mavericks' windup, complementing Howard's 29 points as Dallas' deadly duo combined for more than half of their team's total for the day.

What compounded Phoenix's loss was the deafening silence in the last two quarters of Nash, the back-to-back MVP last year and this year.

After firing 14 points in the first two quarters, Nash nastily neutered his guns, attempting just one shot in the entire final half. Although it found its mark, it became an inconsequential shot as seconds remained and Dallas was well on its way to victory.

Did Jason Terry handcuff the usually unstoppable Nash?

I guess the answer will be known when Game 3 is played tomorrow.

* * *

If a Filipino emerges winner today in the 90th Philippine Open at Wack Wack, that would be a cause for celebration.

The last Filipino to win the Open at Wack Wack came 16 years ago, when Robert Pactolerin prevailed in 1990.

I'll be the least surprised should a Filipino win it, given the positions Filipinos Juvic Pagunsan, Pactolerin and Cookie La'O were holding going to yesterday's third round.

With 36 holes to go, the prospects looked rosy.

Pagunsan was 4 behind, and Pactolerin and La'O 6 behind at the fabled east course of Wack Wack, where one shot can either make or break an Open bid.

Seven shots behind were Rosales and Jerome Delariarte, 8 behind was Angelo Que, 9 behind were Marvin Dumandan and Mars Pucay, and 10 behind were Elmer Salvador, Jay Bayron and Artemio Murakami.

As I write this, the third round yesterday remained uncompleted, with Australian Scott Strange sharing a 1-stroke lead with Taiwanese Chang Ting-yeh, the 1993 champion at Southwoods, at the start of play.

Twice the last two years, Filipinos wound up second—Pagunsan in 2004 at Riviera behind an American, and Gerald Rosales in 2005 at Mt. Malarayat behind an Australian.

The last Filipino to win the foreign-flavored Open was Frankie Miñoza, who did it in 1998 at Riviera's Couples.

As the saying goes, in golf, nobody's a winner until after the last putt has been dropped.

* * *

FASTBREAK. The HSBC golf tournament tomorrow at Eagle Ridge has attracted a virtual "Who's Who" among golfers who are not pros. Here's a glass once more to HSBC Main Man Warner Manning, Suresh Nanoo and Laine Santana for their stupendous efforts in assembling the star-studded cast. . . The Kawasaki Disease, discovered in 1961 in Japan and which afflicts mostly children from Asia, has hit my grandson, Mayo. An extremely rare disease, the cause of Kawasaki Disease is yet to be known although an infectious agent such as a virus or bacteria triggers it. Its first symptoms are high fever that lasts at least five days, swollen lips, tongue and throat, redness in the eyes, painful knee joints and body rashes. Its victims are usually kids aged 5 and below, although Mayo has just turned 9 on May 2. I write this chiefly to inform Mayo's friends, who are countless and who might be wondering where he is. Mayo, who was still recovering from a neck injury when the Kawasaki Disease struck, has been confined since Monday at the Makati Medical Center. Thank you for the prayers; thank you, Jun (Velasco); and, thank you, Ermin (Garcia).

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Torre top board vs Ecuador

TORRE: Spearheads RP charge anew

TURIN, ITALY—EUGENE TORRE IS back on familiar ground in round 6 of the 37th Chess Olympiad at the Olympic Village here Saturday.

The 54-year-old Torre, Asia's first Grandmaster, will play top board as the Philippines battles Ecuador and tries to rev up its campaign in the biennial meet that lured a record 146 men's teams.

Torre, who has manned board 1 for the Philippines from the 1974 Nice Olympiad to the 2004 Calvia, Olympiad, will be supported by two-time national champion Darwin Laylo and Fide Masters Oliver Dimakiling and Wesley So, both Olympiad first timers.

With 11.5 points, the 35th-seeded Filipinos share 48th-56th places and are slightly behind their pace in Calvia, Spain. That time, they have 12 points after round 5 and eventually finished 19th.

The lightly regarded Filipinas, seeded 60th, are faring better in the distaff side.

Following their 2.5-0.5 trouncing of Italy B in round 5, the Filipinas pooled 8.5 points and jumped to a share of 34th-41st places in a roster of 101 teams.

Their true mettle will be known when they tackle the 32nd-ranked Belarussians in round 6, according to team captain Cesar Caturla, who opted to field back Catherine Perena, Sherily Cua and Woman International Master Beverly Mendoza against Nadezhda Azarova, WIM Anna Sharevich and WIM Tatiana Berlin, respectively.

Men's team captain Sammy Estimo decided to field Torre in place of GM Mark Paragua, who's still smarting from the beating he absorbed from fellow GM Eduardas Rozentalis of Lithuania in round 5. GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. , who plays board 3, will also take a rest to prepare Dimakiling and So for the tougher grind ahead in the 13-round Swiss system event.

Torre, who has drawn his first three games, will handle black against GM Franco Carlos Matamoros and said he'll wait for the opportunity to present itself before going for a win.

Laylo, who was elevated to board 2, faces IM Palau Daniel Mieles while Dimakiling meets Miguel Medina on board 3. The 12-year-old So will tangle with IM Plinio Pazos on board 4.

"We're still searching for the right combination," said Estimo. "So far we're not getting the desired result with the white pieces."

In a message relayed to Estimo, National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay lauded the women's team for its fine showing but expressed disappointment over the inability of the men's team to gain headway.

After blanking Mauritus, 4-0, in the opener, the Philippines settled for draws against lower-ranked Luxembourg (63), Colombia (62) and Lithuania (39). The Filipinos yielded to an all-GM United States, 2.5-1.5, in round 3.

Pichay left Manila Saturday night to boost the morale of the Philippine teams.

The biennial event took a break on Friday and the Filipino players spent their time at the recreational area, where the play stations are the favorites, and later took a stroll at a nearby mall linked to the Olympic Village, built for the 20th Winter Olympics last February.

They then studied the games of their probable opponents through the data base of their laptops provided by the NCFP.

Powerhouse Russia paces both divisions, affirming its bid to sweep honors this time.

Russia, boasting 15.5 points, takes on Netherlands (15) in a bid to break free from co-leader Armenia, which faces Uzbekistan (14.5) in round 6.

SPORTSWATCH

Boysen-Pbc International

TOP BOWLERS FROM THE ASIAN REGION WILL SEE action in the 35th Boysen-PBC International Open slated June 2-17 at the Green Valley Country Club. Philippine Sports Commission chairman William Ramirez will be the guest of honor during the opening while other invited guests are Boysen Paint's Willy Ong and Eastwood City's Kevin Tan. Defending Masters champion Chester King will banner the Philippine campaign in this two-week event serving as qualifying for the sixth leg of the Asian Bowling Federation Tour. More than P1 million is at stake in this event supported by Holiday Inn Galleria and Crowne Plaza, Ilo Construction, Mabz Builders, Axis Construction, Acecom, Fiber-Mate, Belarmino & Associates, Castillo & Associates, Waterlite Engineering and Playdium Bowling & Billiard.

Bacchus challenge slated

THE FIRST LEG OF THE BACCHUS EXTREME SPORTS Challenge kicks off on June 30 with the family criterium bike race at Golden Valley in Marikina and the eco-adventure race in San Mateo Rizal on July 1. Kids, junior, women, executive weekenders, and the Young Once (50 years and up) are expected see action in the criterium bike race together with the elite, advanced and beginner riders. Racers will enjoy a grueling and tougher combination races in the succeeding legs that will surely test their mental and physical limits as they explore and appreciate the historical and eco-tourism areas in Tagaytay City, Puerto Azul, Batangas, and Subic. For more details, contact Grace of LifeSports: Milestone Races & Events at 433-5052, 0917-4195375, 0921-3392888 or lifesportsevents@yahoo.com.ph.

2nd leg of Endurocros up

ALL IS SET FOR THE 2ND LEG OF THE 2006 ENDUROcross today at the Timberland Heights Raceway in San Mateo Rizal. Categories are Pro, Novice Open, Beginner Open Production, Executive Open and Local Enduro A&B. Media partners are Sports Unlimited, Sports TV, Stoplight and Speed. Inside Ring Magazine and Motorcycle Magazine will announce the results. Interested riders may call 0915-4026625, 0918-3715443 and 0922-3258413, or e-mail kp5@pldtdsl.net and kinetic_production@yahoo.com. Raffle and awarding of trophies, cash prizes and gift checks for the top 10 winners will be held at 7 p.m. at Mike G's bar & grill, No. 225 Katipunan Ave.,Blueridge, Quezon City.

Delada vies for Int'l title

CAMIGUIN FIGHTER DEXTER 'DINAMITA' DELADA aims to join Manny Pacquiao and Gabriel Pumar in the list of the country's WBC International champions as he vies today for the vacant WBC International lightweight crown against South African Ali Funeka in East London, SA. Delada (14-2, 10 KOs), who is a southpaw like Pacquiao, is the country's No. 1 lightweight. A protege of Cebu's Rex 'Wakee' Salud, Delada will be up against a fighter, who has lost only once in 27 ring battles. Funeka holds the South African super featherweight title, which he has defended five times in racking up a 24-1-2 win-loss-draw record with 20 KOs.

Salven Lagumbay, contributor

Gorres sees action today

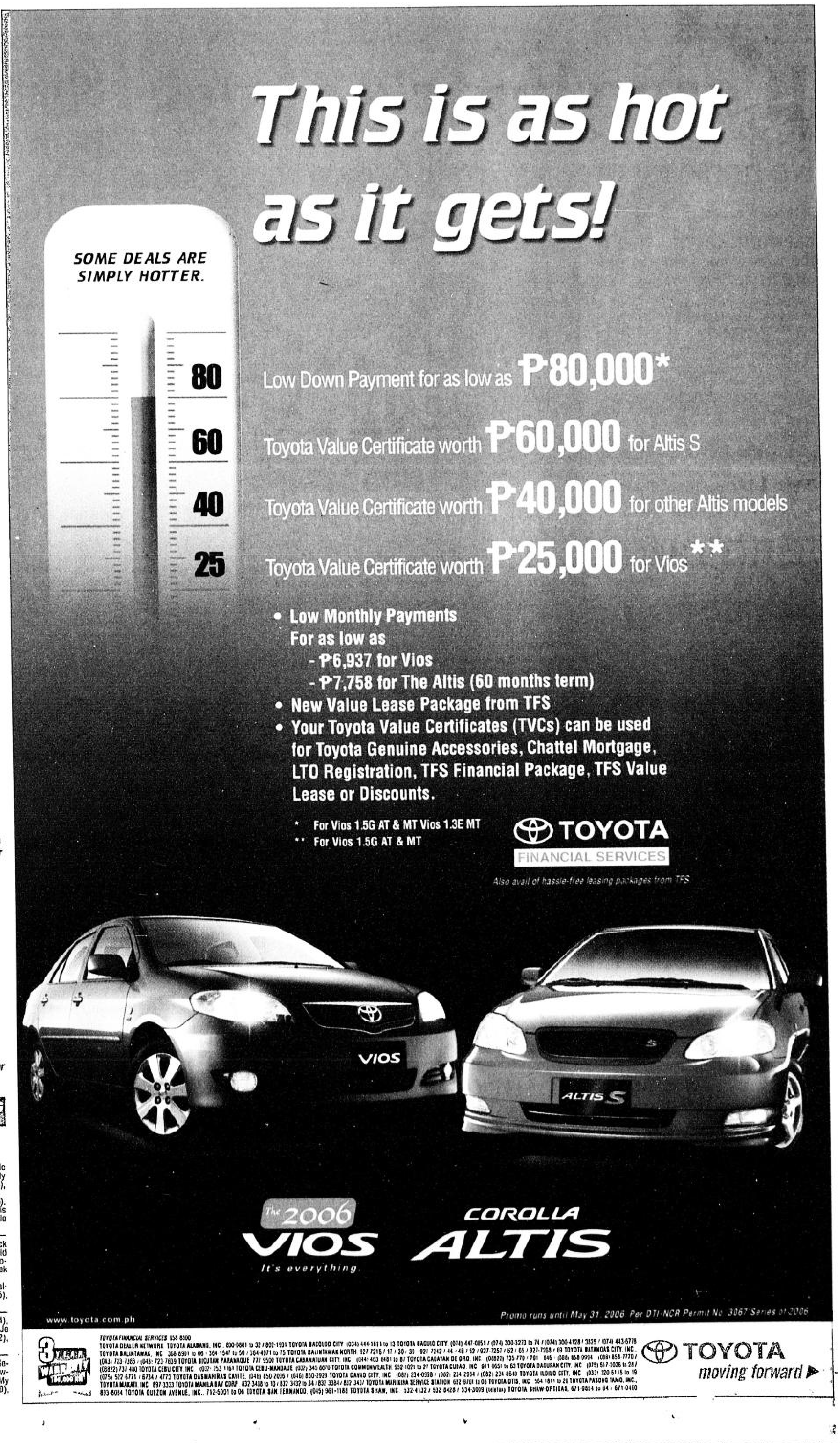
Z GORRES TANGLES WITH COLOMBIAN PEDRO Rincon Miranda today in the undercard of the WBO bantanmweight showdown between Jhonny Gonzalez and Fernando Montiel at the Home Depot Center in Carson, California. The flashy southpaw Gorres (23-1-1, 12 KOs), who holds the OPBF superfly title, will try to duplicate the impressive win hacked out by his stablemate Rey Bautista, who stopped Roberto Bonilla in three short rounds at the Staples Center last weekend. Miranda (30-10-2, 25 KOs), a native of Cartagena, Bolivar, is a replacement for Gorres' original opponent Jose Laureno, who was not medically cleared to see action. The Gorres-Miranda bout will be aired on a delayed simulcast tonight over Solar Sports and IBC, starting at 8:30PM.

Salven Lagumbay, contributor

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Danehill Beauty (4), Pabilic Express (7), King Zach (3), Tower of Class (1), Pedrito/Yapee Yoyoh (8)
Race 2—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dixie Dash/The Dominator (8), Besame Mucho (9), Dashing (7), Britney's Magic (3), Take Ten/Silver Place (2), Fornan Ikaw Pa Rin (10)
Race 3—(Movahead (2), Successful Dream (3)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Romblon Rock (2), Ocean Dignity (3), Society Climber (7), Yonder Girl (6), Marvelous Jay (5)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—King's Dominion (8), Karma (5), Sutter's Quest (6), Golden Connection (1), Cash Feeder/Sellmade (10), La Perouse (7)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Mano Po (5), Stratosphere/Hezabellagio (6), Graceful Ann (4), Road Runner (7)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Million Dollar (2), Don Exequiel/Santiago (4), Special Edition (9), Dixie The Younger (7), Tigres In Action (6)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Magic Dancer (1), Jokes Only (2), Smiling Jaeda (4), Power Of The Wind (3)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (6), Big Smile (1), Alexis Magic, Princess Carmilla (3)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Morning Glory (7), Quick Pick (3), Aim For Gold (10), Basta't Ikaw (2), Ilocos Princess (11), Korek Ka Dyan (5)
Race 11—(Trifecta)—Monalisa (1), Dark Desert (5), Coromali (3)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Pyramid Relaunch (4), Mr. Lucas (5), Quant Je Puis (9), Real Tough (2), Run Like D'Wind (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Nico's In Charge (1), Genie In Disguise (3), Power Dance (11), Dulce My Love (10), Romario (9), Western Dancer (2)



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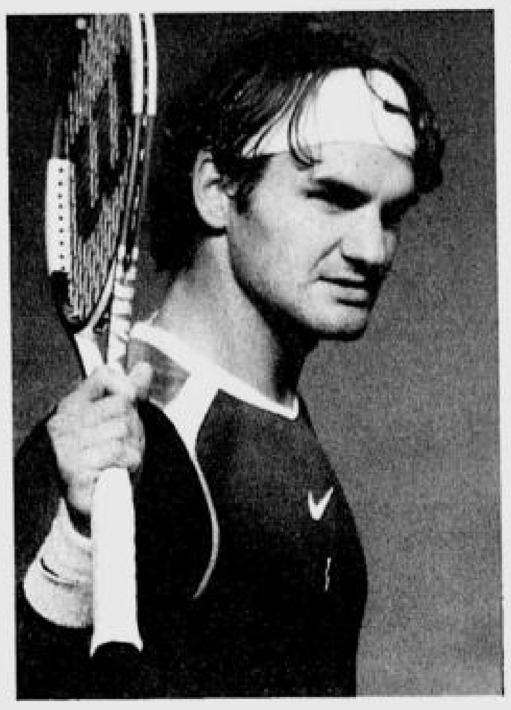
Rivalry of tennis' new golden era shaping up



ROGER Federer is slowly showing signs of worry about Rafael Nadal, whom he hasn't beaten on clay. The Swiss maestro charged Nadal with receiving coaching tips illegally. REUTERS

PARIS—ROGER FEDERER AND RAFAEL Nadal believe they are about to lead tennis into a new golden age with a French Open victory crucial in swinging the balance of power in their direction.

Federer goes into Roland Garros hoping to become the first man since Rod Laver 37 years ago to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time.

But Nadal, the teenage Mallorcan muscleman, holds all the cards.

He is the defending champion, having triumphed on his debut year last season and is the Swiss superstar's nemesis having won five of the pair's six career meetings.

They include all of Federer's three defeats in 2006, counting the finals of the clay court Monte Carlo and Rome Masters events.

In the process, Nadal has pulled level with Guillermo Vilas's record of 53 successive wins on clay set back in 1977.

But Federer, who squandered two match points against Nadal in their five-hour final marathon in Rome, isn't giving up.

"I have to play him more often to figure him out and that is what I have been doing. I think I am getting closer and closer," said Federer who has never been at his most comfortable here losing three times in the first round before losing to Nadal in the semifinals last year.

"I think we are getting close to having a rivalry but we still haven't played enough yet.

"Sometimes a rivalry needs a win, loss, win, loss. That's not been happening, he's been winning the last few.

"But I think it's heading in a very nice direction for tennis to have a player like him on tour. It's an exciting time."

Nadal has never lost to Federer on clay, but the 19-year-old still believes the Swiss is the better player.

"I think he's a great champion and he has overcome many things, tougher things," said Nadal.

"He has won seven Grand Slams, and he's been in so many finals. He's definitely at the moment better than any other player."

But Nadal knows he has Federer worried.

In the Rome final, Federer was involved in a fiery exchange with his opponent's coach, Toni Nadal.

"What happens on the court stays on the court," said Nadal on Friday.

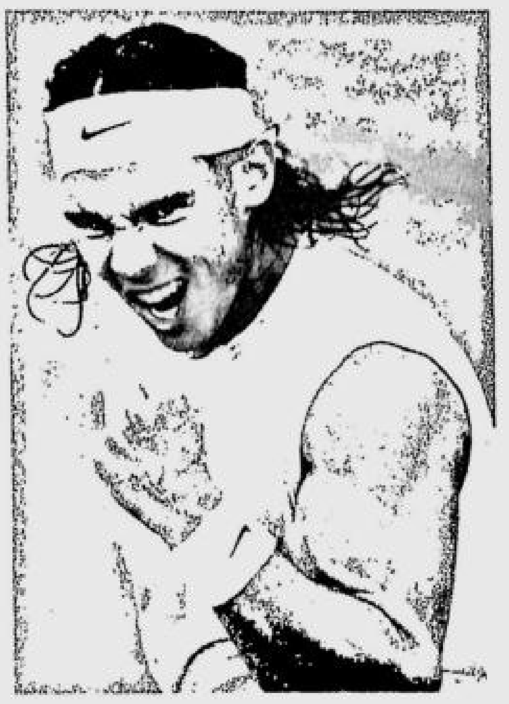
"I don't have to say anymore about it. But Roger will always have a chance to beat me. I could lose any time against him."

Federer will face French veteran Arnaud Clement in the opening round of this year's tournament which gets underway on Sunday with his first tricky assignment possibly coming in the third round where he could face Olympic champion Nicolas Massu of Chile.

Nadal will face Sweden's Robin Soderling in the first round where victory would hand him a record 54th successive triumph on clay.

Australia's former world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt and big-hitting Chilean Fernando Gonzalez, the ninth seed, are also in Nadal's section of the draw. Gonzalez takes on Russia's former world number one Marat Safin in the first round.

French Open organizers have opted for a Sunday start to maximize TV viewing figures and they need Federer and Nadal to shine with the demands of the tour having taken their toll on some of the game's big names. *AFP*



IN CONTRAST to Roger Federer's relaxed demeanor, Spanish sensation Rafael Nadal, it seems, is just a good shot away from an emphatic display of fist-pumping. REUTERS

It's anybody's guess

No horse favored as Triple Crown series starts

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—CALL IT the widest open race to kick off a Triple Crown series.

With no clear-cut favorite and a P2 million purse on the line, 10 crack 3-year-olds battle it out today in the Eduardo Cojuangco Cup set over the mile to flag off the 2006 series at the ultra-modern San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Unlike in the past when at least one hopeful has been established as favorite months before post time, this race gives no indication on the probable winner after Juggernaut sustained a front knee injury that required surgery to correct.

Battle-scarred Million Dollar and Special Edition and the once-promising Dixie The Younger are being tipped as the early favorites in the race held in honor of the former Ambassador, who is the founding chair of the Philippine Racing Commission.

But sales for today will not necessarily mean that it will be the trend as chargers like Don Exequiel, Jet Sutter and Tigres in Action have turned in past performances worthy of Triple Crown leg wins.

Post time is around 5:25 p.m.

Twelve or Never (VM Camanero), Batong Silyar (Antonio Alcasid Jr.), Mr. Victory (Jeffril Zarate) and Santiago (Louie D. Balboa) round out the big field in the race which stakes P1.2 million to the champion.

PATTY Dilema, seen in this file photo piloting Ouzu, will be atop Dixie the Younger this time around. PDI PHOTO

Jonathan Hernandez pilots Million Dollar, Dominador Borbe will be Special Edition's partner and Patty Dilema handles Dixie The Younger, the bay colt who could be the most versatile entry in this race.

Stayer Don Exequiel will be ridden by RC Baldonido, Fernando Raquel will guide Tigres in Action and veteran rider Manolito Daquis will rein Jet Sutter, one of four fillies in the field, the others being Twelve or Never, Jet Sutter and Special Edition.

Don Exequiel, a handsome chestnut by Bench Mark out of Belle Epoque, will be coming off a smashing win in the second leg of the Road to the Triple Crown series.

Not since Silver Story (2001) has there been a Triple Crown champion, and producing one nowadays has been hard, what with the owners and breeders able to come up with quality horses which have leveled the playing field.

Sharapova feels her 'growing' pains are over

RUSSIAN charmer Maria Sharapova feels she's finally adjusted to her height. AP

PARIS—RUSSIAN GOLDEN GIRL Maria Sharapova believes now that she has topped out at a slender 6-foot-2, she is ready to mount a serious assault on the French Open.

Sharapova, one of the tallest girls on the tour, has collected 11 titles in her brief career but has yet to make the breakthrough on clay.

In three visits to Roland Garros, two runs to the last eight remain her best performances and her lack of success is due, she believes, to her height which in turn affected her movement on this most testing of surfaces.

"I think I finished growing last year," said the 19-year-old.

"I think that was one of the things that contributed to one of my nagging injuries."

A right ankle injury has kept Sharapova out of action since reaching the final in Indian Wells eight weeks ago and she has yet to play a clay court match this season.

"I grew a lot in a short space of time. Obviously with the muscles and the joints, playing so many tournaments, they are not reacting great to that.

"But I am definitely settling into my height. I don't feel as uncoordinated as I did a few years ago."

Sharapova is seeded four at this year's French Open and opens her campaign against America's Mashona Washington on Sunday.

She hopes she can find her form quickly and not suffer any reaction to her lengthy absence.

"I think I am as perfect as I would like to be, I'm giving it my best shot," she said.

Twelve months ago, Sharapova was easily beaten, 6-4, 6-2, in the quarterfinals by eventual champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, a defeat that still rankles with her.

"Last year, I didn't feel as if I was strong enough physically," she added. "Now I definitely feel stronger. I feel I can last a lot longer." *AFP*

Thai rookie back where she belongs

CORNING, NEW YORK—VIRADA NIRAPATHpongporn is a rookie. She sounds like a veteran.

"I'm back where I belong again," the 24-year-old Nirapathpongporn said Friday after taking the second-round lead at the LPGA Corning Classic. "I have been here before on the leaderboard and winning golf tournaments. I just have to go out with the belief in myself, believe in all the work that I've done, keep on moving forward."

The former Duke star, who won the 2002 US college NCAA title and 2003 US Women's Amateur, shot a 5-under 67 for a two-round total of 133, one shot better than Brandie Burton (68) and first-round co-leader Nancy Scranton (69).

Given her college and amateur success, Nirapathpongporn certainly is accustomed to being in the lead. But after an accident two months ago—a resistance tube she used for stretching exercises snapped off a doorknob and struck her right eye, causing internal bleeding—she was elated to be playing so well so quickly.

"I just learned a lot, not to take anything for granted," said Nirapathpongporn, who has three top-20 finishes this year. "If I ever have a chance, I take it. The injury taught me that. There's no holding back."

Vicki Goetze-Ackerman had a 68 and was tied at 135 with Jeong Jang (69).

For Goetze-Ackerman, it was a memorable day. In her previous eight events this year, she had missed every cut, leaving her with no money won.

"Any time you hit good shots and you see some results actually paying off with all the work you've done, it's nice, because there haven't been a lot of great things that have happened this year to feel all right about myself," she said.

She has newborn son Jake to help in that regard, although his birth last fall probably contributed to her scoring woes this year. She stopped playing on tour in the middle of last June, played casually in July before pulling a muscle in her stomach, and then didn't hit another shot until Thanksgiving. *AP*

First time: Woods skips Memorial tournament

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—STILL COPING with the death of his father, Tiger Woods decided on Friday to skip the Memorial Tournament for the first time, meaning he will be coming off the longest layoff in his career when he goes to the US Open.

Woods had until Friday to enter next week's Memorial, and tournament officials held out hope until the final minute.

"We're respecting his decision to come back when he's ready," tournament director Dan Sullivan said. "There's always disappointment when a top player doesn't come to a tournament. Hopefully, he'll come back next year."

For the last 10 years, the Memorial has always counted on having two of the biggest names in golf—Woods, a three-time winner at Muirfield Village, and tournament host Jack Nicklaus.

Nicklaus did not enter for the first time since the tournament began 30 years ago. He said last year he was ending his competitive career in the British Open at St. Andrews, where he missed the cut.

"Kind of a double barrel," Sullivan said.

The Memorial still has a strong field, with seven of the top 10 players from the world ranking, minus only Woods, David Toms and Luke Donald. The headliner shifts from Woods to Masters champion Phil Mickelson, playing in the Memorial for the first time since 2002.

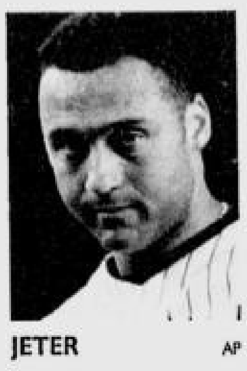
Woods has not played since he tied for third at the US Masters on April 9. His father, Earl, died on May 3 in California, and Woods already has missed two tournaments he typically plays—the Wachovia Championship and Byron Nelson Championship.

It was thought he would play in the Memorial to give him one tournament before the US Open on June 15-18. Indications late this week from Woods' camp are that he will play at Winged Foot.

Woods has never missed the Memorial since his first full season on the US PGA Tour in 1997. *AP*

Jeter hits 2,000th

NEW YORK—DEREK JETER GOT his 2,000th career hit Friday, becoming the eighth player in New York Yankees history to reach the milestone.



JETER AP

Jeter beat out a roller in front of home plate in the fourth inning against the Kansas City Royals and advanced to second when catcher Paul Bako threw the ball away for an error.

With the Yankee Stadium crowd chanting his name, Jeter tipped his cap twice as he stood on second base. He stole third on the next pitch and scored New York's first run on Alex Rodriguez's single. The Yankees lost 7-6.

"I know he had to be uncomfortable having to tip his cap," manager Joe Torre said. "It's too bad we couldn't cap it off for him with a win."

Jeter felt the same way.

"A hit's a hit," he said. "But we should have won this game."

Jeter said he was more concerned about winning the game.

"Personal accolades, you look back when your career is over, when the season is over," he said.

Jeter finished the night with two hits, two walks and a souvenir baseball.

"I'm sure my mom will want it," he said. *AP*

For Zinedine, one final home game

WITH time running out on his career, Zinedine Zidane hopes for one last moment of glory with France. AFP

CLAIREFONTAINE, FRANCE—ZINEdine Zidane has come a long way since he was scolded by Eric Cantona for missing a team meeting on his first call up to the France squad.

Twelve years later, Zidane is preparing to captain France against Mexico on Saturday. He will make his 100th international appearance and last at the Stade de France.

"If I do get swamped by emotion then so be it," Zidane said Friday. "I will try not to put pressure on myself. But if I do get emotional, then it's no drama. I've always had a good relationship with the fans at Stade de France."

Midfielder Zidane will become the fourth player to play 100 times for Les Bleus, following fellow World Cup winners Didier Deschamps, Lilian Thuram and record 116-game Marcel Desailly.

It's a far cry from his first tentative steps in the French camp.

Called up as a late replacement for the injured Youri Djorkaeff, the shy Zidane kept his distance from the likes of the imposing Cantona—who was well on the way to becoming a Manchester United legend.

"We had a team meeting," Zidane said. "I stayed in my room as I thought I had no business to be there. Then I got a phone call and it was Cantona. He shouted down the phone: 'Hey, kid, where are you?' I literally ran down the stairs."

Cantona's blast seemed to work. Zidane came off the bench to score two goals and earn a 2-2 home draw against the Czech Republic.

The Stade de France has held cherished memories for Zidane over the last eight years.

Zidane scored in the opening game at the national stadium—a 1-0 win over Spain in January 1998—and six months later, he headed two goals in France's 3-0 victory over Brazil in the World Cup final.

"It's proof that he's had an exceptional career," said Juventus defender Thuram, who could make his 112th appearance Saturday. "He has managed to stay at the top level for so long." *AP*

UE spikers claim Shakey's tourney

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST BLASTed Colegio San Agustin in straight sets yesterday to capture the Luzon leg of the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League at the Ateneo courts in Quezon City.

The Lady Amazons, the reigning UAAP junior champions, drew big games from Jamiejim Pereabras, Mary Cristel Rosale and Giza Yumang to outplay the CSA spikers, 25-17, 25-22, 25-9, and clinch a spot in the Tournament of Champions set next week.

Third place in the tournament sponsored by Shakey's and supported by Dunkin Donuts, Toby's Sports, Mikasa, Asics and Air Philippines went to Hope Christian School, which downed Quezon City High School earlier in the day, 25-17, 25-23, 26-28, 25-14.

With the win, the UE tossers will join early qualifiers University of Southern Philippines (Cebu), Dona Monserrat Lopez High School (Bacolod) and Passi National High School of Iloilo in the T of C which starts Thursday, June 1, also at the Ateneo gym.

Yap-Santos pair up in Forest Hills golf

ALLAN YAP AND GUEST PLAYER Richie Santos finished with a two-day score of 139 points to win their first championship in the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club's Invitational Golf held last week in Antipolo City. Yap, vice president of the Quezon City Sports Club, and Santos, vice president for marketing of Cinderella, shot 49 points under the best ball format on the first day and then combined for a 90 aggregate on the last day. They were awarded handsome trophies that featured the replica of Forest Hills' clubhouse at the close of the four-day tournament that was co-presented by Golforce Inc. and Wilson Sports with major sponsors New Life Center and Foodlink. The tandem of Juanito Chua and Antonio Tan Jr. won by countback over Lewis Wong and Cesar Orbi to capture the Group I division title after both teams tied at 124. Kyung Sik Choi and In Chul Kim settled for third place with 123 in the event backed by Asian Spirit, Asiawide Refreshments Corp., CJH Dev. Co., CJH Manor, Club Leisure, lawyer Gilberto Duavit, Ericsson, Fairways and Bluewater, Gerry's Grill, Gruppo Armani, MRT, PAL, Puma Time Wear and Solar Sports.

Northwoods bags Ford National Team trophy

FORD NATIONAL TEAM SHOOTOUT 2006

PRESENT during the awarding of the Northwoods squad were FedGolf's Richie Garcia, INQUIRER chair Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, and team members Omar Dungca, Jun Maliclic, Chris Wan, Danny Clarin with Ford's Colo Ventosa and FedGolf's Ogie Manalo

THE ROYAL NORTHWOODS Golf and Country Club quartet of Omar Dungca, Danny Clarin, Chris Wan and Jun Maliclic played steadily in both rounds to win the grand finals of the Ford National Team Shoot-out recently.

The Bulacan-based foursome placed second on the first day of the 36-hole finals at the Orchard and duplicated the feat in the second round at Sta. Elena to rule the event by one point with a 118 net total.

Northwoods opened with a net 56 at the Orchard after closing with four straight birdies and added a 62 marked by an eagle on the par-5 16th hole at Sta. Elena to win the grand prize of an all-expense paid golf vacation to Spring City Golf and Leisure Resort in Kunming, China.

Tagaytay Highlands, bannered by Farrah and Windy Imperial, Mabek Kawsek and Loy Bernardino topped the round at Sta. Elena with a 61 then nipped first-round leader Eagle Ridge, represented by Raffy Juan, Manfred Guanko, Arnold Jumalon and Wilbert Uy, in the countback to salvage second place.

Both Tagaytay and Eagle Ridge, which led on the first day with a 55, finished with identical 119 for 36 holes. Tagaytay scored 58 in the first round while Eagle Ridge, hounded by poor putting, soared to a 64 in the final 18 holes.

As runner-up, the Tagaytay foursome won an all-expense paid trip to Fairways and Bluewater Golf and Country Club in Boracay while the Eagle Ridge bets settled for gift certificates from Mizuno.

The Ford National Team Shoot-out was presented by Ford Group Philippines in cooperation with Pharmaton and Hinge Inquirer Publication. It was sponsored by Mizuno, Rudy Project, VMV Group, St. Francis, Citibank, PAL, C-Lium Fiber, Asian Spirit, Adidas Eyewear, SEAIR, Bosch, Osim, Pisanti, Golf Pro and Raymundo Trophies & Sculptures.

The complete members of the winning teams are Omar Dungca, Jun Maliclic, Chris Wan and Danny Clarin for NTS.

Second-placers Loy Bernardino, Mabek Kawsek and Farrah and Windy Imperial for Tagaytay Highlands.

Third-placers Manfred Guangko, Arnold Jumalon, Raffy Juan and Wilbert Uy for Eagle Ridge.

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DALLAS Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki finds himself clamped down on by the Phoenix pair of Tim Thomas (left) and James Jones (right). The mob-like defense failed to slow the German hotshot, who finishied with 30 points and 14 rebounds. AP

Nowitzki powers Mavs

Dallas ties Western Conference finals vs Phoenix

DALLAS, TEXAS—DIRK NOWITZKI scored 12 of his 30 points in the final 10 minutes as Dallas rallied for a 105-98 victory over Phoenix Friday that knotted their National Basketball Association playoff series.

Josh Howard shrugged off an ankle injury to score a playoff career-high 29 points and DeSagana Diop was a factor for the Mavericks, who evened the best-of-seven Western Conference finals at one game apiece.

In game one, Nowitzki had 25 points and 19 rebounds but was uncharacteristically quiet in the fourth quarter, when Dallas squandered a nine-point lead in the final 3 1/2 minutes.

Leading Phoenix's comeback in that game was Steve Nash, the two-time Most Valuable Player who scored 10 points in a two-minute span as he looked for his offense.

On Friday, the long-time friends and former Dallas teammates swapped roles.

Nowitzki, who also pulled down 14 rebounds, was very aggressive as he fueled a 30-point fourth quarter.

"I really wanted to make some stuff happen, going to the basket some and not just settling for jumpers," said Nowitzki, who made 12-of-21 shots. "I was just attacking the rim. They don't really have a lot of shot-blockers out there, so I thought I'd maybe to get to the line some and it was decent."

Nash, in contrast, did not take a shot in the second half until making an uncontested layup in the waning seconds.

He had just two points and three assists after halftime.

"In hindsight, I would have maybe tried to be a little more aggressive, but I kept feeling like I was making the right play," Nash said. "I was drawing two guys and passing to the open man, and you know that's the type of player I am. I try to make the right play and then when the right time comes you want to be really aggressive."

"We tried to get the ball out of his hands a little bit more than we did in game one," Nowitzki said. "But he still had some. He still had some opportunities where he's right there and made him pass the ball. But his teammates kept making shots."

A 3-pointer by Shawn Marion gave second-seeded Phoenix an 82-78 lead with 10:45 remaining before Nowitzki responded with a pair of short jumpers to trigger a 12-2 surge. *AFP*

MIAMI center Shaquille O'Neal wants more chances to dunk on the Detroit Pistons. REUTERS

No longer relaxed, Miami gets hot under the collar

MIAMI—ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, THE Miami Heat seemed relaxed and confident as they held a one-game lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

With that cushion now gone, they simply seem angry.

Shaquille O'Neal wants the ball more, repeating his refrain from last season's playoffs. Dwyane Wade is growing increasingly frustrated about tactics the Detroit Pistons use against him defensively. Pat Riley made little effort to hide his disappointment in the lack of energy and effort that doomed the Heat in Game 2.

All those tenets add another several levels of intrigue to Saturday's pivotal third game of the series, with the Heat and Pistons knotted at a game apiece.

"They feel that they're the best team," Wade said. "They feel like every time that they lose, it's because of them. We don't get any credit. We've got to go out and earn it. We don't deserve any, evidently, so we've got to go out and continue to earn our credit—and that's by going out and winning this series."

Detroit took a 25-12 lead after the first quarter of Game 2 and pushed the margin to as many as 18 points in the second half, before hanging on for a 92-88 victory. The Heat scored 17 points in a 97-second span to get within two with 9.8 seconds left, a furious rally that ultimately failed.

Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince said he thought the way Miami closed Game 2 may have swiped some momentum away from his team.

"I think it can," Prince said Thursday night. "But hopefully it won't and hopefully we just build on what we did before that happened."

As vaunted a defensive team as the Pistons are—a well-deserved reputation, and especially so after their 64-win regular season—they haven't been able to truly stop Wade and O'Neal in this series.

The Heat's two stars shot 59 percent and averaged 46 points—more than half the team's scoring—in the first two games.

"I think we need to focus on getting it inside," O'Neal said after Game 2. "We took way too many jump shots. We were just trying to make jump shots and that's not our game."

Wade said the Heat will happily try to comply with that request.

"You want to keep the big man happy," Wade said. "And evidently, he wasn't. He wanted more touches and that'll be a focus going into the game tomorrow." *AP*

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'Kapamilya' renovation

RESSA: One goal

ESPINOSA: One guide

Projected changes will allow ABS-CBN to deliver quality programming that is 'also cost-effective'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE KAPAMILYA HOME IS undergoing major renovation with shows—both on the Entertainment and News and Current Affairs fronts—concluding their runs to give way to new programs.

These changes are part of a network initiative to "reprogram" or "re-grid" its lineup.

According to the grapevine, among the first given a "pink slip" were two late-night N&CA programs "Pipol" and "Kontrobersyal."

Ces Drilon has anchored "Pipol" for almost seven years; Boy Abunda has hosted "Kontrobersyal" for three years.

"Payong Kaibigan," the third show said to have been canceled, may simply be reformatted.

Things are really still up in the air.

According to Maria Ressa, senior vice president and N&CA head, the forthcoming changes, if any, will be "a positive development."

Ressa told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview plus e-mail on Friday: "Change is happening, but change isn't bad. We have a lot of plans in the works, [but we are guided by] a simple goal: to deliver excellent journalism to our viewers."

KAPAMILYA/ A2-2

Former Ch 2 talents beef up RPN 9 slots

By Marinel R. Cruz

RPN 9 HAS SOUGHT THE HELP OF FORMER ABS-CBN employees to beef up its programming and "get a better chance at beating rival networks," according to network president Mia Concio.

Concio identified Jing Magsaysay, former ABS-CBN assistant vice president for news operations, as RPN 9's officer in charge for news.

Erwin Tulfo, who used to anchor for "Magandang Gabi Bayan," is now the host of the hour-long news program, "Aksyon Balita."

Tulfo was a regular ABS-CBN reporter for nine years. Angelique Lazo, who used to anchor the evening news program for RPN 9, has transferred to PTV 4.

"As early as now, the new team is already infusing changes in the news department," Concio told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday. "The shows now have more 'action' segments. They are now more responsive to the audience and more interactive."

Also part of the new RPN 9 news team is Melo del Prado, former desk editor of dzMM (ABS-CBN's AM radio) and reporter for "TV Patrol."

Leddy Tantoco, formerly a reporter for dzMM, is now a writer of "Isumbong Mo! (Tulfo Brothers)," a public service program aired Saturday nights.

Also part of the spruce-up is extending the airtime of "Aksyon Balita" from 30 minutes to a full hour, Concio pointed out.

"This is just the first phase. Viewers should watch out for more," she said. "Right now, it's important that we first build a credible image for our news team. With Jing and Erwin's help, we can solidify our platform."

Since February, Concio added, RPN 9's international channel, RPN USA, has been available in key areas in the United States through cable distributor Echo Star. For this project, the network tied up with the US-based Glocal Media.

Next on the drawing board, Concio said, is the "strengthening" of the network's entertainment programming.

RPN 9 recently started producing shows "for the female audience." It has come up with

FORMER/ A2-3

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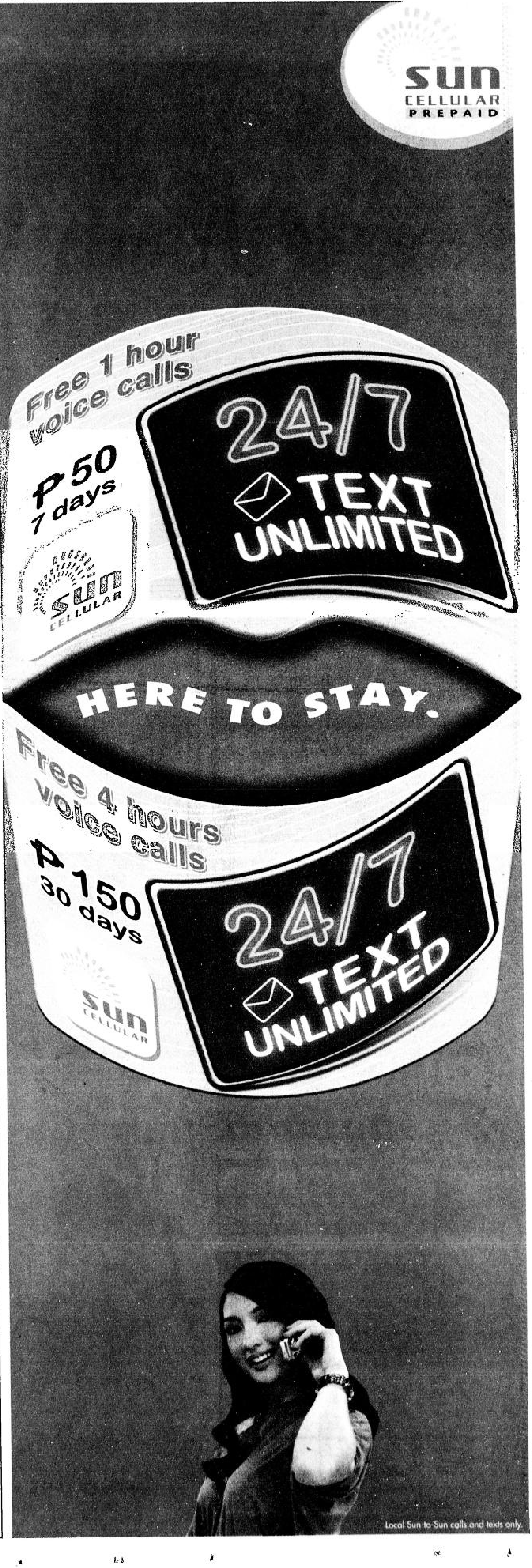

FEEDBACK

Right on, NUT

From Anonymous, Mandaluyong City:

I agree with Nestor Torre's column, "Some TV newscasts pushed back to witching hour." These TV networks does not consider the lifestyle of their viewers. I hope they will be more considerate—10:30 p.m. will be fine. After the news, they can then play the nonsense Korean *telenovela*.

Fasten seat belts

From Rodel Bellosillo (romdel 94@yahoo.com), Riyadh, KSA:

Mr. Torre, everybody knows we have a seat-belt law but it's so disturbing to see how some TV shows neglect to emphasize the proper use of it. Some TV shows even have actors using cell phones while driving. I hope the MTRCB or LTO can do something about it, since TV networks nowadays are so busy with their ratings game.

From Jojo Taduran (jojotaduran@gmail.com) O'Connor Drive, Toronto, Canada:

I saw two weeks ago a musicial show produced by husband-and-wife team Ramon Torralba and Teresa Mendoza Torralba. That was a real revelation of the talents of young Filipino-Canadian singers from the ages of 12 to 18. Ramon was one of the original members of the Hotdog Band. The young Fil-Canadian singers can be brought to the Philippines to show their singing abilities, even with Filipino songs. Maybe we can have a talent exchange. Mabuhay!

'Kapamilya' . . .

From page A2-1

Her observations were echoed by Maloli K. Espinosa, vice president for Government, Corporate Affairs and PR: "This is good news. We are excited because 're-griding' permits us to provide new, quality programming that is cost-effective at the same time. It not only puts the company in a better financial standing; it also allows us to give the public what it deserves and needs."

Espinosa asserted that these new initiatives were a product of "surveys conducted by the network's research group."

"We are very sensitive to feedback from the public," Espinosa said. "We are guided by our viewers."

Espinosa pointed out that the changes in the N&CA and Entertainment departments were "part of a regular cycle in a broadcast organization that seeks to make improvements in its programming, content-wise."

She added that when it comes to making improvements, "the network doesn't waste time."

She reiterated that, in the Entertainment division, the station had identified certain programs that would have only limited runs (13 weeks, or two to three months)—for example, the *telenovelas* "Gulong ng Palad" and "Bituing Walang Ningning" or the game and reality shows "Kapamilya, Deal or No Deal" and "Pinoy Big Brother."

"Canned programs or shows with limited runs are more cost-efficient," Espinosa explained. "This experiment has allowed the station to slowly improve its financial status."

Suffice it to say, these improvements are in line with the Kapamilya's corporate philosophy, "to be of service to the country," she concluded. "That's our main responsibility."

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2 X-MEN 3
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PG-13

3 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40
R-18

4 OVER THE HEDGE
11:20, 1:40, 3:50
R-18
THE DA VINCI CODE
6:00, 9:30
R-18

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1 X-MEN 3
MTRCB. PG-13
1 10,3 30, 5.50, 8:10, 10:30

2 X-MEN 3
MTRCB PG-13
11 40, 2:00, 4 20, 6:40, 9:00

3 THE DA VINCI CODE
MTRCB: R-18
1.20, 4.25, 7.30,10:35

4 THE DA VINCI CODE
MTRCB R-18 11.45, 5:10
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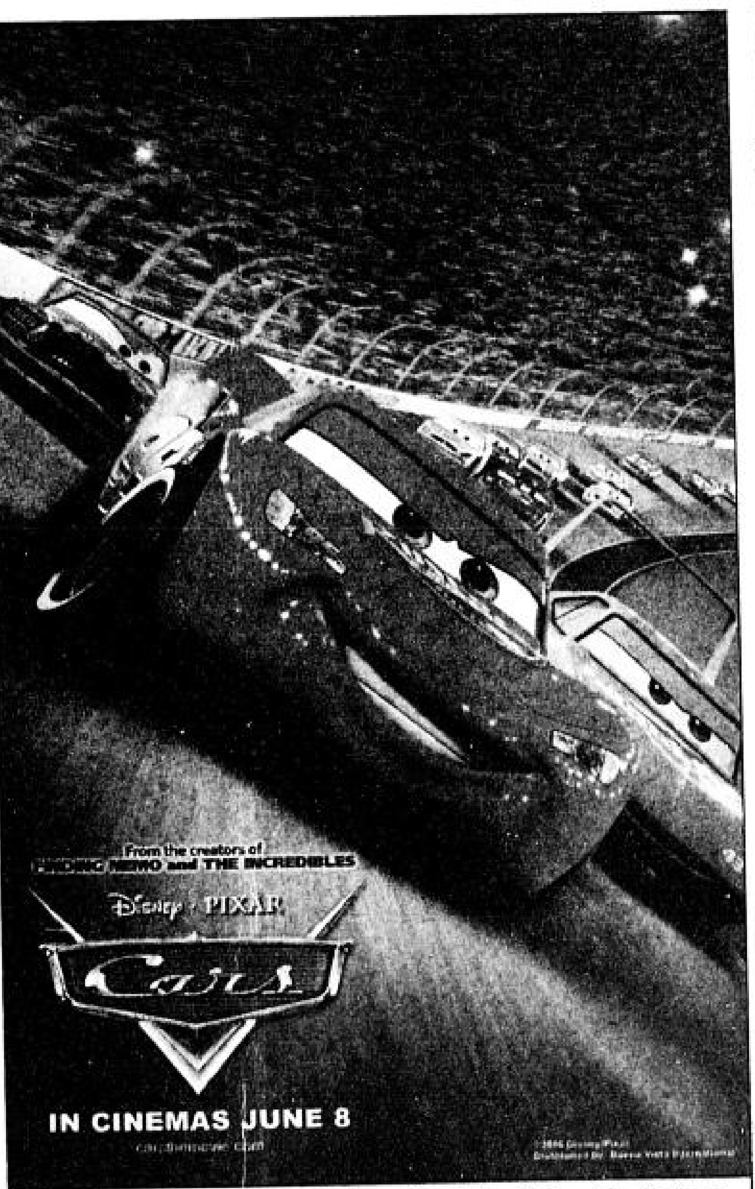
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10:25 , 1:25 , 4:25, 7:25 , 10:25
R18
CINEMA 5 X-MEN III
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2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
PG13
1:45,4:05,6:25,8:45

3 THE DA VINCI CODE
R18
1:15,4:15,7:15,10:15

4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
PG13
12:00,2:20,4:40, 7.00,9:20

5 THE DA VINCI CODE
R18
12:15,3:15,6:15,9:15

6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
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1:10,3:30,5 50,10:30

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Former Ch 2 talents beef up RPN 9 slots

SISON

TULFO

ROMY HOMILLADA

From page A2-1

three such shows—"For M," "Make-Over," and "Go Negosyo"—in non-prime time slots.

Connie Sison, former ABS-CBN reporter and host of "Magandang Umaga Bayan," will be hosting "Go Negosyo," which premieres June 5.

The network has also consulted, Solar Entertainment, which is responsible for the prime time hours (6-10 p.m.), on how to reprogram said grid.

Concio denied rumors that RPN 9 is interested in getting senior vice president for Star Magic (ABS-CBN talent center) Johnny Manahan to help. But she hinted on "talking with" a director who is "responsible for a number of box-office hits for ABS-CBN."

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	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	5 OVER THE HEDGE	6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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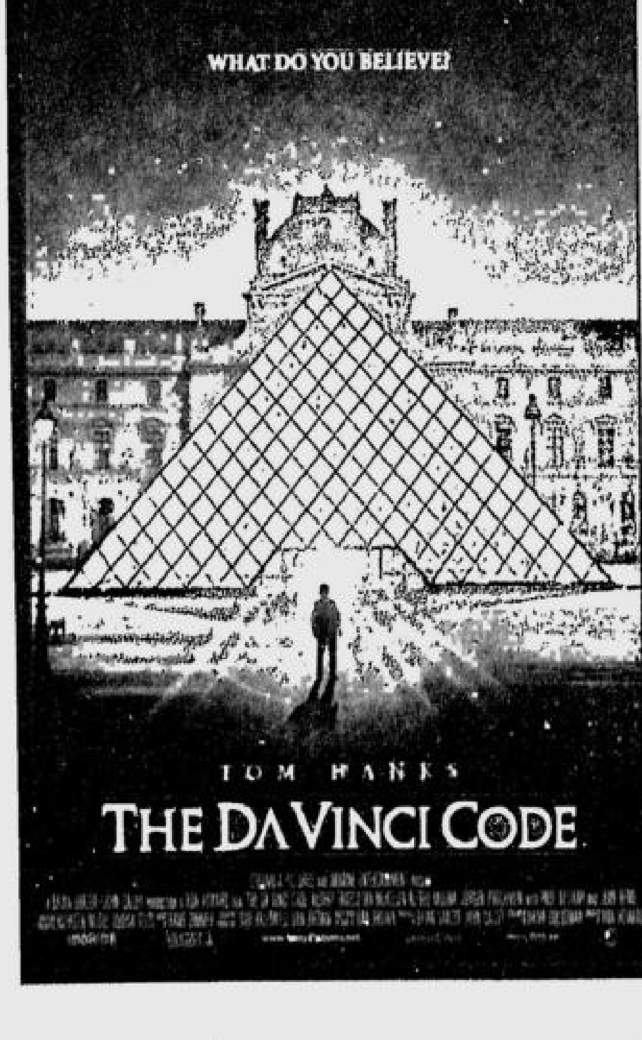
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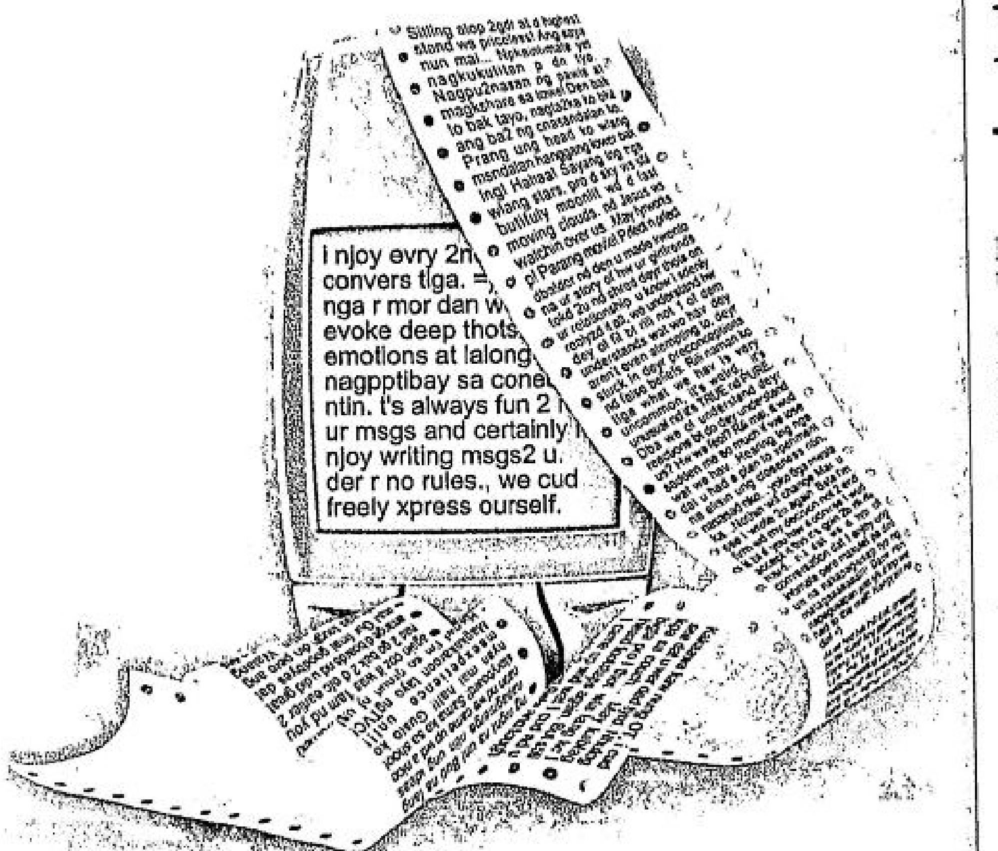

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Cartoons for parents, too

Research shows that moms, dads like to watch TV with kids

KID FIT

WATCHING TELEVISION remains the top leisure activity for kids, and 90 per cent of parents prefer to join their kids in this activity.

Cartoon Network said this was according to New Generations Philippines 2005, a patented CN research project that had sought to better understand Filipino kids' lives, behavior and opinions.

This was done via in-home, face-to-face interviews with 1,000 pairs of parents and children aged 7 to 14 from Manila, Cebu and Davao.

CN said the research showed that vast majority (95 per cent) of parents watched TV with the kids, and that 82 per cent in fact did so on a daily basis. CN claimed that over half (55 per cent) of the respondents in cable TV homes preferred Cartoon Network.

Responding to the findings, the network recently launched a dedicated and comprehensive Cartoon Network Philippines web site for Filipino viewers: www.cartoonnetwork.com.ph. The web site contains detailed information on all shows and characters, complete programming schedules and an updated information on popular promotions.

'Twitches' on Disney Channel

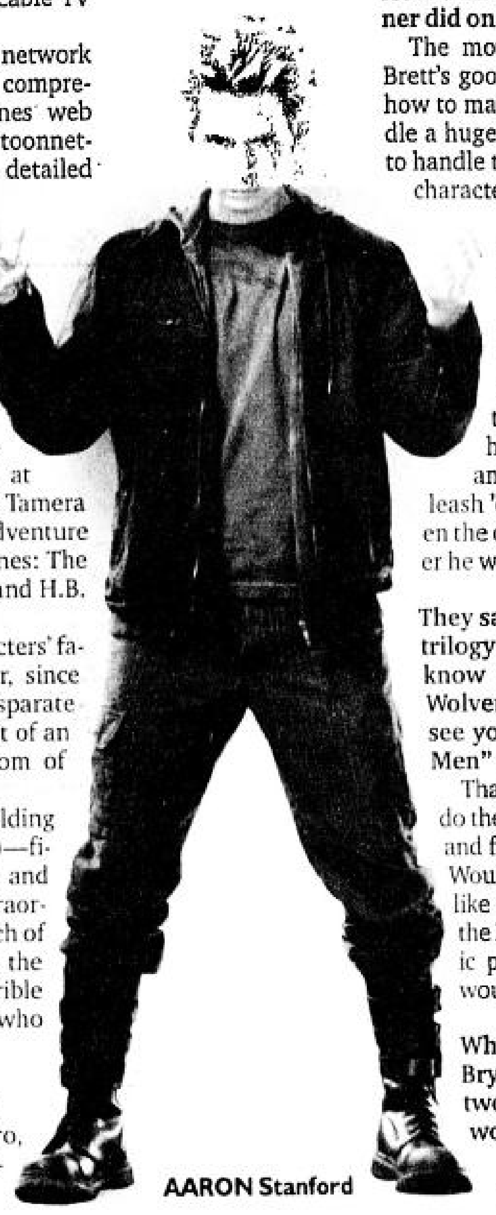
"TWITCHES" will have its Asia premiere on Disney Channel tonight at 7:30. Starring real-life twins Tia and Tamera Mowry, the show is a surrealistic adventure based on the popular book "T*Witches: The Power of Two" by Randi Reisfeiled and H.B. Gilmour.

Separated at birth, the lead characters' father assigns each twin a protector, since they have to be adopted in wildly disparate homes on Earth to escape the threat of an evil force in their mystical kingdom of Coventry.

The twins—now named Alex Fielding (Tia) and Camryn Barnes (Tamera)—finally meet on their 21st birthday and learn that they have untapped extraordinary powers. They set out in search of their mother and discover along the way that their home planet is in terrible danger and they are the only ones who can save it!

Special feature: Pyro

IN "X-MEN: The Last Stand," Pyro, potentially the most dangerous mutant, is played by Aaron Stanford.



AARON Stanford

The movie raises issues for Pyro with strong contemporary relevance: Is great power a blessing or a curse? This is an interview with Aaron:

How well do you think Director Brett Ratner did on "The Last Stand"?

The movie is right up his alley. I think Brett's good with big, big movies. He knows how to make a splash, he knows how to handle a huge spectacle and he also knows how to handle the smaller things of the minutia of character.

How much more action do you get here?

Pyro is incredibly powerful. He controls one of the most basic elements that there is on the planet: fire. He can do anything he wants to do with fire. You've seen some of his power control burst in "X-Men 2" and in this one he is allowed to unleash 'cause Magneto has completely taken the choke off of him. He can do whatever he wants.

They say this movie wraps up the X-men trilogy regarding the story arch. But we know there are the spin offs, the Wolverine and Magneto movies. Do you see yourself involved in any future "X-Men" films?

That is all up to the studios man. Would I do them? I would have to look at the script and figure out who was actually involved. Would I like to be involved in something like that again? Yeah, it's a great world, the X-Men world, the franchise. It's terrific people involved, great actors yeah I would love to keep doing it.

What was different working with Bryan (Singer, director of the first two "X-Men" movies) compared to working with Brett?

It's difficult to compare them—apple and oranges.

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'Scary' dancing, not singing, at the 'Idol' after-party

AT LAST, THEY MEET. New "American Idol" Taylor Hicks on "Tonight Show with Jay Leno" at NBC Studios in Burbank, California. AP

LOS ANGELES—WE OVERHEARD THIS exchange at the VIP after-party of "American Idol" at the Hollywood & Highland:

"Ace!?"

"No, I'm his brother."

"May I have a picture with you, anyway?"

With those words, **Ryan**, older bro of **Ace Young**, gamely posed with the girl. Anyway.

This was just a few minutes after we left the Kodak Theatre which smelled of fireworks set off on the stage to greet the announcement of **Taylor Hicks** as this year's "AI" champ and the first white male to win the title. On our way to the party, we met **Hugh Pedron**, who watched the finale in person as part of his prize as Star World's "American Idol Know-It-All" trivia contest winner in Manila.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Hugh gushed about the pop star-studded show we just experienced. "I did not expect so many performers," said the La Salle graduate who was accompanied by his San Francisco-based sister, **Maria Pedron**. "It was the best finale show ever."

We had been surprised as well, as one guest star after another performed with the 12 finalists. Imagine, **Prince**? The crowd at the Kodak went wild. He was the only star who did not sing with the finalists. The rest did—**Mary J. Blige** (her version of U2's "One Love" with **Elliott Yamin** electrified the live audience), **Al Jarreau** with **Paris Bennett**, **Meat Loaf** with **Katharine McPhee** (now that's a surprise), Live with **Chris Daughtry**, **Toni Braxton** with **Taylor**, **Dionne Warwick** and **Burt Bacharach** with the finalists.

The finale show more than made up for our disappointment over the performance show which we also watched at the Kodak. That one had felt so routine, devoid of any sparks.

Top-level party

At the party on the top floor of Hollywood and Highland, **Michael Sandecki**, who was enjoying his 15 minutes at the party catered by Wolfgang Puck, swore to us that the bit with his idol, **Clay Aiken** (sporting a new Beatle-esque hairdo that is a shade darker—"AI" fanatics were divided as to whether the mop was cool or alarming), walking onstage to join him for the famous Aiken rendition of "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" was an absolute surprise.

Kimberley Locke, former "AI" finalist, agreed when I told her about Hugh's comment that the recently concluded show was super. She told me about her new single, "Supa Woman," from her sophomore album.

In the meantime, Crazy Dave, one of the night's Golden Idol winners—the guy who danced like he just got electrocuted—continued his shtick at the ballroom. He "terrorized" the guests who were afraid that his hyper-frenzied dancing might cause the plates and wine glasses in their hands to fly into other people's faces. We tried to take pictures but the man moved so much that we ended up with shots of flailing arms and legs.

We fled the ballroom before he could do any serious damage. It would have been interesting to watch that dude dance with Taylor. But Mr. Silver Fox, with Katharine McPhee, other "AI" finalists and their relatives were having a separate party at a nearby hotel.

By the way, when we watched the taping of an "AI" elimination round at the CBS lot last March, this is what we wrote in this column: "...these contestants have the stuff to be idols: Katharine "Kat" McPhee (talent, looks and charm-watch for her), Taylor Hicks (resembles **George Clooney** at first glance and he also has the actor's charisma), **Lisa Tucker** (a triple threat like Kat), Paris Bennett and Chris Daughtry."

Flab-bergasted

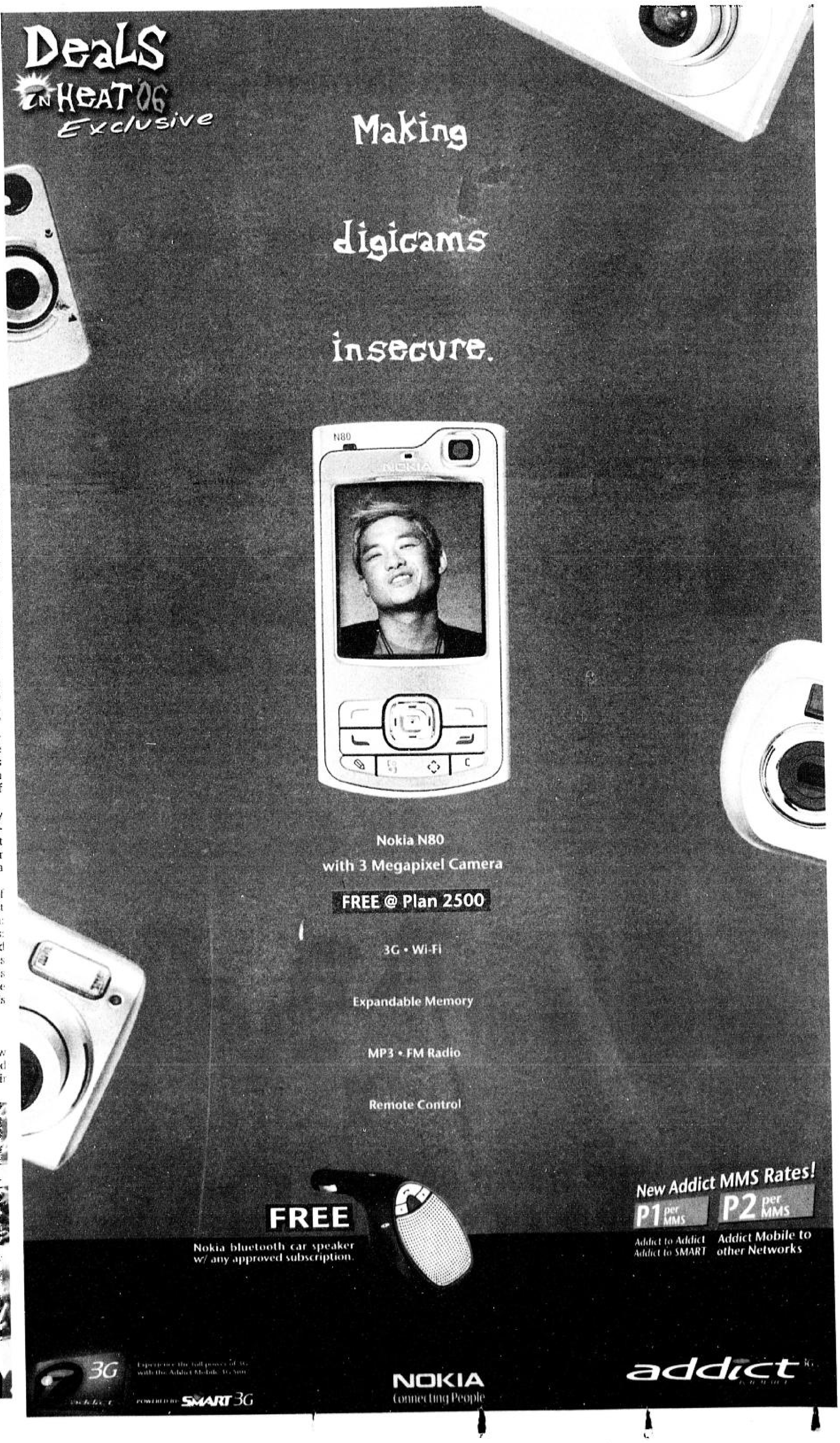
Last Friday, we wrote about our interview with **Jennifer Aniston** in which she discussed such topics as **Vince Vaughn**, her beau, their new comedy movie together "The Break-Up" and, indirectly, only in relation to that title, her own break-up with **Brad Pitt**.

We interviewed Vince right after Jennifer so this time, we present the man who did an impressive feat, if you ask us. To many women (and some men), Brad is god. So for Vince to have charmed Jen, hey, this man must be special.

But in one scene in "The Break-Up," when Vince takes off his shirt, the physique in view is described by a colleague to Vince himself as...

SCARY/ A3-4

FOX
American Idol
KATHARINE McPhee



ROUNDUP

FILMMAKER Abraham Lim, Maylyn Villalon, Tikoy Aguiluz and Mirana Medina

Cinemanila holds first SEA film workshop/festival

THE CINEMANILA International Film Festival has just conducted the first Southeast Asian film workshop/festival in cooperation with the ITI (International Theater Institute) World Theater Congress, Scenema Concepts and National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The intensive workshop/festival, which focused on the Sony High Definition (HD) camera technology, was held May 22-25 at the NCCA Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin Auditorium on Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila, and at the Scenema Concepts Int'l in Pasig City.

Twelve (12) participants were selected to attend the workshop and complete their three- to five-minute films, which were premiered on Friday and yesterday during the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Asian Media Content and Creative Industries at the Manila Hotel Centennial Room, and again today, at the closing event of the ITI World Congress today.

Cinemanila founder and director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz said the free workshops were aimed at "providing budding filmmakers the experience to use the finest camera technology and produce quality films."

Guest speakers were led by Abraham Lim from Los Angeles, California and Tracy Y. M. Hon from Hong Kong. Lim conducted a lecture on scriptwriting with emphasis on short films; Hon shared her expertise in the use of the HD camera.

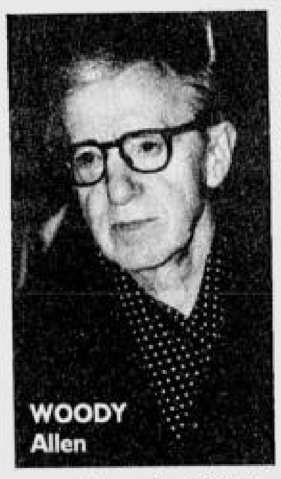
Award-winning Filipino film editor Mirana Medina, and Maylyn Villalon of Scenema Concepts spoke on ways to minimize problems during the editing phase.

Anti-piracy raid

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agent Joel Tovera of the Intellectual Property Rights Division, left in photo, and lawyer Leo Pascua, representing four major recording labels in the country—Sony-BMG Music Entertainment, Warner Music Philippines, EMI and MCA Music—led a recent anti-piracy raid at Wellcom Telecom Supermarket, SM City North Edsa.

The telecom outlet was slapped with charges of piracy and estafa, on account of illegal downloading of music and videos, which it gives as additional services to customers.

A loss for Woody



WOODY Allen

NEW YORK—Woody Allen, in another legal fight with two former friends and producers he accused of cheating him out of $12 million, has lost a skirmish over what versions of six of his movies will be shown on television and in airplanes.

State Supreme Court Justice Bernard Fried ruled that terms of a settlement of a lawsuit Allen filed against Jean Doumanian, his former producer and friend of 30 years, allow her to develop the television and in-flight versions of "Bullets over Broadway," "Mighty Aphrodite," "Everyone Says I Love You," "Deconstructing Harry," "Celebrity" and "Sweet and Lowdown."

The fight over the modified versions stems from the 2001 lawsuit Allen filed against Doumanian, Jacqui Safra, her personal and professional partner, and their production company, Sweetland Films.

Allen, 70, alleged that Doumanian and Safra refused to give him an earnings report for eight films, including the six currently in dispute, and had cheated him out of as much as $12 million. *AP*

The buzz at Cannes

CANNES, France—Here's what is making the buzz on Thursday at Cannes: Black Christ and Virgin Mary.

The first film starring a black Jesus Christ is set to stir controversy when it hits the screens later in the year.

"Colour of the Cross" stars Jean-Claude LaMarre as Christ and tracks his last 48 hours until his arrest on Mount Gethsemane.

"This film will undeniably resonate in the hearts and minds of the black community and strike a cord of inspiration in the hearts of Christians of all ethnicities around the world," said producers Nu-Lite in a statement.

Mary is to be played by daytime-drama star Debbi Morgan. The film, which is due to be released in October, was scripted and directed by LaMarre.

"Our movie is not about dividing Christians but broadening their perspective. For centuries, Leonardo da Vinci's portrayal of Jesus has been widely accepted. We are offering an alternative image," LaMarre said. *AFP*

Movies via TV tilt

LOS ANGELES—A role in a film starring Nicolas Cage and Julianne Moore is the prize awaiting contestants in a new TV talent contest.

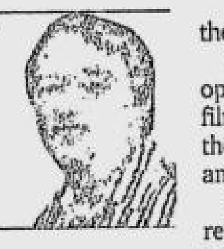
"Looking for Stars," which will follow about 200 aspiring actors from tryouts to the winner's appearance on the set of Revolution Studios' film "Next," is untraditional: It will play on the Starz premium channel in 10-minute episodes.

The 14-episode contest, which the channel has dubbed a "micro-series," will debut on June 19 and air through September.

A casting call in January drew thousands of would-be stars to compete for audition spots in New York, Las Vegas, Orlando and Kansas City. Eight semifinalists ultimately got tickets to the finals in Hollywood. *AP*

Tale of the movie tickets

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

WHEN LOCAL FILM PEOPLE HEAR THAT their counterparts in Hollywood are also having a bad year at the tills, they can hardly believe it.

After all, the Filipino movie industry is making only about 80 movies this year, both mainstream and digital, while US filmmakers produce hundreds of motion pictures.

So, who's really suffering? And does Hollywood really have any right to complain?

If you look at the film field through American movie people's eyes, however, the slump is perceptible, and genuine cause for concern.

And, nowhere is it more obvious than at the top. Compared with past film seasons, this year's US blockbusters are grossing less than expected.

Take the 2006 season's lineup of summer movies. This season, producers have been pinning their hopes on three blockbusters to set a high standard in terms of income, to energize the US industry's showing for the rest of the year.

Unfortunately, actual grosses generally haven't fulfilled producers' glowing expectations, hinting at a malaise in the moviegoing experience that could eventually strike at the heart of the theater-based cinematic medium itself.

The first recent sign of trouble manifested itself when "Mission: Impossible III" grossed less on its initial weekend than "M:i:I,II."

It still made a whole lot of money, but not enough to keep the profitable film franchise on an upward trajectory and thus make it a no-brainer that "M:i:IV" will eventually see the light of film's day.

Then came the summer's next big blockbuster, "Poseidon"—and it also tanked, striking dread in Hollywood's celluloid heart of hearts.

Does lightning strike thrice? Now comes the biggest and most controversial blockbuster of them all, "The Da Vinci Code." Will it make up for the disappointment of the first two movies, and se the box office ablaze? It has certainly generated enough controversy to excite moviegoers and lure them into theaters in droves.

Well, it's been a week since "Da Vinci" opened, and the initial figures are in: The film made $77M on its opening weekend in the States—a very strong showing, indeed, and the strongest to date this year.

But industry chroniclers note that the record of $115M set in 2002 by "Spider Man" remains unbroken.

Still, "The Da Vinci Code" looks like it's well on its way to ending up as true film year's biggest blockbuster, as we surmised some columns ago.

This should give US film people a psychic boost, and to some extent counter the downbeat mood prevailing in Hollywood for the past few years.

New child stars wanted

AFTER the box-office success that was "Exodus: Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom," another full-length fantasy film will be produced this year by Enchanted Kingdom, the popular theme part in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Thus, the hunt is on for new child stars, aged 6-13, to play important roles in the movie.

Interested? Audition at Enchanted Kingdom from 1 p.m. onwards on June 10, 11 and 12. Call

Farewell to

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Louie, Boom

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Excitement is up for The Four Aces

THERE'S NO STOPPING THE LEGendary Four Aces, which has given the world such timeless love songs as "Love Is A Many Splendored Thing," "Three Coins In A Fountain" and "Stranger In Paradise."

The group arrives today for a series of shows in Manila and Pampanga: June 1 at the Manila Hotel, June 2 at the Clark Expo in Pampanga, June 3 at the Araneta Coliseum and June 4 at the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta, Makati City.

The Big Dome concert is at 8 p.m. Tickets priced from P300 to P3,500 are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets (call 911-5555) and the Araneta Coliseum box-office.

Nina sings Manilow

Nina returns to the Music Museum for a series of shows featuring the music of Barry Manilow.

She will be joined by Christian Bautista on June 2 and 3, Jed Madela on June 10, Nyoy Volante on June 17 and 30, Troy Montero on June 23 and 24. Other guests are Groove Manila and Boses. Call 721-6726.

'Sayaw ng Karagatan'

Agnes Locsin, one of the country's most progressive choreographers, has been commissioned by the Perry Sevidal Ballet for its "PSB Recital XII: Sayaw ng Karagatan," with newly composed music by her fellow Davaoeño Joey Ayala. The world premiere is on May 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater.

Best known for her delving into Philippine tribal practices as inspiration for her choreographic transformations, Agnes is truly at her best when creating movements that stem out of the fusion of western techniques and Philippine ethnic movement.

As Ballet Philippines' (BP) former artistic director and chief choreographer, Agnes has greatly contributed to the company as well as the Cultural Center's treasure trove of Philippine contemporary artworks.

Ms Judell de Guzman, former BP principal dancer, essays the role of Diyosa as guest artist. Also performing are Perry Sevidal, former BP company member, and Peter Alcedo Jr in the roles of Tao. The PSB students willingly faced up to the formidable and ever dynamic 'Locsin' style.

BJ "Tolits" Forbes

SHOW TIME

Today
Akafellas at Robinsons Place Manila
BJ "Tolits" Forbes at SM North Edsa
May Villar at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

Tomorrow
Myla Galang at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

May 30
Jojo A All the Wayat RJ Guitar Bar
K and The Boxers at Zirkoh Greenhills
Margarita at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

May 31
RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge; 9 p.m.
K and The Boxers at Klownz Araneta
Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3
Jeli Mateo at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge
Jojo A All the Wayat RJ Guitar Bar

June 1
Acoustic Jive at Merk's Bar

June 2
Wings Tour featuring Parokya ni Edgar at Ratsky Malate
Solace at SM Megamall

June 3
The Four Aces in concert at the Araneta Coliseum
Winston in Concert featuring Sandwich at Kublai's Katipunan
Solace at SM Bicutan
Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

ENGELBERT Humperdinck

June 5
Silk and Steel at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 6
Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar

June 7
Wednesday Jazz Festival at Merk's Bar with Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig and Judith Banal

June 8
Acoustic Jive at Merk's Bar

June 9
MTV Live Sessions at Café Lupe featuring Pupil
Akafellas at Robinsons Metro East

June 10
Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar

June 12
Silk and Steel at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 13
Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar

June 14
Wednesda
with Richar
Judith Banal

June 15
Acoustic J

June 16
Cascades
Bay Freeport
Solace at

June 17
Cascades
Araneta Coli

June 18
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June 19
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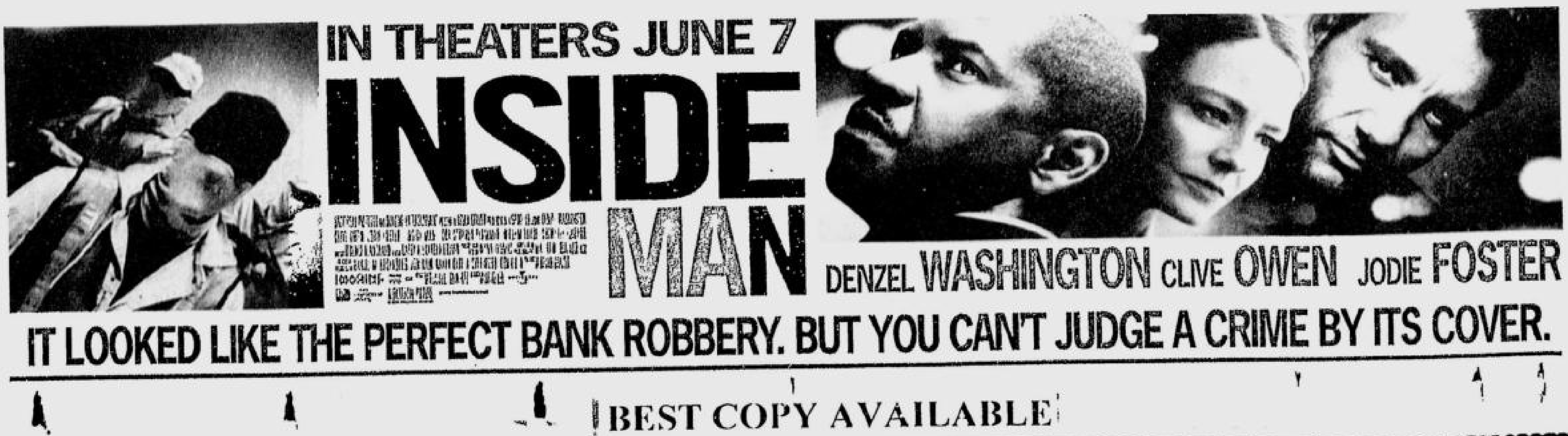
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summer

dio RX 93.1 is holding the ul- party, "One Last Time This May 31 at the Camayan Beach , Subic. Taking the plunge are DJs **Francesca, Danielle,** **Sarah, Jose, Tom, Jude,** and **Chico** and **Delamar.** 93.1 kicks off the school year o-school Party. Stay tuned to es on how to join.

rtial law

uilino Pimentel Jr.'s book, in the Philippines: My Story," ed at 4 p.m. on June 7 at the Centennial Hall.

k, Pimentel recalls the four incarcerated for dissent, and ctors that led to that long and Philippine contemporary his- e that it won't happen again. as the basis for the recent mu- g-ibig as Bayan," with songs senator's wife, Bing. al will be staged anew in

FOUR Aces

Jazz Festival at Merk's Bar Merk, Eddie Katindig and

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2006 World Tour at the Subic

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2006 World Tour at the seum

2006 World Tour in Iloilo

Steel at Merk's Bar Bistro,

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Jazz Festival at Merk's Bar Merk, Eddie Katindig and

ve at Merk's Bar

2006 World Tour in Bacolod Sessions at Café Lupe featur-

M Fairview

M City Clark

Steel at Merk's Bar Bistro,

Humperdinck at the Arane-

d the Souled Out Band at

Jazz Festival at Merk's Bar Merk, Eddie Katindig and th Banal

ascades 2006 World Tour at Hard Rock Café Makati

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coustic Jive at Merk's Bar

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ascades 2006 World Tour in ao City

TV Live Sessions at Café e featuring Orange and ons

place at SM North Edsa

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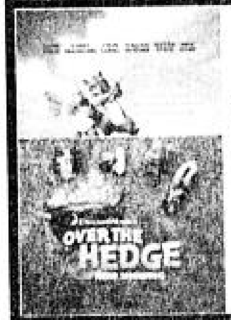

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SENTINEL
SILENT HILL
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M:I:III

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ALL ABOUT LOVE
SM Megamall • May 30, 2006
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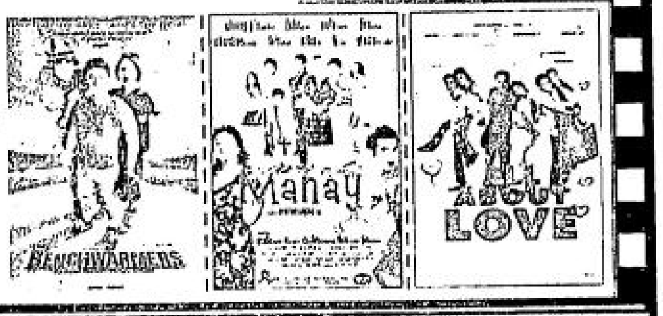

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PAMAHIIN
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SILENT HILL

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS

M:I:III
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OVER THE HEDGE

SM CITY LUCENA

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XMEN III

SM CITY CLARK

NOW OPEN

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OVER THE HEDGE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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SM CITY MOLINO

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SM CITY STA. ROSA

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2 X-MEN 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 THE DA VINCI CODE
12.00 3:10 6:20 9:30

5 X-MEN 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

6 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 POSEIDON
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 OVER THE HEDGE
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:15 3:25 6:35 9.45

10 THE DA VINCI CODE
11:45 2:55 6:05 9:15

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 X-MEN 3 10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

2 POSEIDON
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3 SLITHER
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7 OVER THE HEDGE
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1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
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2 X-MEN 3
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6 X-MEN 3
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7 X-MEN 3
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

8 THE DA VINCI CODE
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

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1 POSEIDON
2 X-MEN 3
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 X-MEN 3
5 THE DA VINCI CODE
6 OVER THE HEDGE

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
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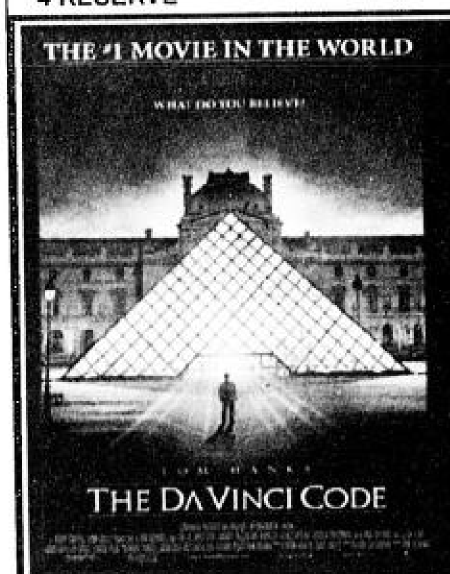

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'Scary' dancing . . .

From page A3-1

> ... and Vince Vaughn describes his feelings for Jen Aniston ... sort of: 'You go with the person ... and you know it's right'

"kind of interesting." Let us clarify that Vince's upper torso in this scene looks better than that of millions of other men but cinema gods are expected to look like, well, gods.

"Was this (having a slightly flabby upper body) a life choice?" our colleague euphemistically asked the actor. The reporter, incidentally, coyly prefaced her question with "I will get into trouble" but Vince gamely said for her to go ahead.

The actor, who towers at 6'5" but whose wisecracking ways, curly hair and ready smile make him look accessible, had a quick, funny retort: "Are you saying that Jennifer looked better?"

After the laughter subsided, Vince provided a very good alibi: "What happened was, I quit smoking. [And] we were working so much that there was not really a chance to exercise. I am not that big of an exercise person, anyway. So I put on a lot of weight because when I quit, I ate constantly. So I put on about 25 pounds."

Of the former Mrs. Pitt, he said, "What do I like about Jennifer? I like everything about Jennifer. I think she's great."

SURPRISE performance by Prince. REUTERS

When a writer dared ask what Vince was doing to make sure that he is more than just a "rebound guy" in Jennifer's post-Brad Pitt life, he gave a straightforward answer, albeit couched in general lingo: "You just approach each thing for what it is. Just respond honestly with what you're feeling. I don't think that there's one specific move or technique. You have to depend on who you are and depend on who that person is, be open, listen and see how it goes."

The persistent reporter lobbed him this follow-up: "But how do you make sure that you are the one [for Jennifer]?" Vince remarked, to much laughter, "Boy, you are starting to open up my mind to a lot of interesting things. I don't approach stuff that way. I just go with the person in the moment and you feel it. You can easily tell when something doesn't feel right, or when it does feel right."

With Jennifer as his leading lady in "The Break-Up" and his ex, **Joey Lauren Adams** also in the cast, another inevitable question popped up. "How weird or comfortable was that?"

His answer: "Joey is a terrific actor. I really wanted her to play that part. Joey and I have stayed friends. I just adore her. It wasn't weird for me at all. In my relationships, sometimes even girls whom I dated in high school are still close friends of mine now. There's no romantic energy but there is kind of a history and a friendship. I was flattered that Joey said yes, she would do the movie. I think she did a great job, too. There was none of those [old] feelings going on. We're like brother and sister now."

Any qualms?

But did the movie's plot of a couple's relationship not working out because of a number of factors remind him and Joey about their own past together? Vince quipped, "Joey didn't say anything but I probably didn't do the dishes in that relationship, yes."

ELLIOTT Yamin sings with Mary J. Blige. REUTERS

OUR GUYS in Hollywood, Ruben and Janet Nepales, flank "Idol" trivia winner from Manila, Hugh Pedron.

Since Vince was the movie's producer, we asked if he had qualms offering Jennifer a movie project with a title that might have been too close for comfort.

"No," came his quick reply. "I don't pay that much attention to that stuff. At the time when I went to her with the movie, it wasn't at the stage that it got to. She was really the only actress that I thought of for the part because of her comedic acting ability and her likability. That stuff transpired as we went on but I felt that ultimately you do your best to make a great movie and I can't really handicap the other stuff, how it will affect, how it won't affect, is it good, is it bad. I know that we had a piece of material that we believed in, that we worked really hard on and that's really all you have control over."

Since Jennifer earlier declined to answer a question about how different Vince is from his character, a man who would rather vegetate in the sofa and watch sports rather than help his girlfriend (Jennifer) prepare dinner for guests, the same question was thrown at him.

SIMON Cowell smooches Paula Abdul. REUTERS

He gamely answered with, "There are parts of it that are like me when I was much younger. I play video games sometimes as a way to relax. I like to watch sporting events. There are similarities, especially when I was younger and not being that sophisticated, frankly, with relationships, not really understanding what it is to be in a relationship. I wouldn't say that the character is identical to how I am now by any means. It's exaggerating stuff in a comedic setting."

When a female scribe asked for his wooing secrets, Vince, stood up, all 6'5" of him, and offered, "Come step outside with me."

He sat down and elaborated on his version of Romancing 101: "It depends on the person. People like to be told things that are positive about them if you're feeling stuff. I don't think it's so much about jewelry. It's more about doing something that says, I'm thinking of you or that I appreciate you and it's less so about the extravagance or that kind of thing. It's much more about thinking of something original or something that obviously took some thought."

Is he, at 36, ready for marriage... perhaps a Vincent Vaughn Jr.? The actor, who first won acclaim in the film "Swingers," about a group of single LA guys in the club scene, revealed, "As I get older, I'm ready to have a family but it's not anything I've thought about seriously like say, okay, I am ready to do this. But you start to get ready for your life to be about something else—kids. Your life has been about you for so long that you go well, it would be nice to have kids and have that as a priority. Your priorities change so I am definitely more open to that now than I was, say, 10 years ago."

Strange situation

Since he was linked to Jennifer, Vince found himself in a strange situation. Almost overnight, he became tabloid fodder. He offered an amusing observation: "I've said many times that I think the tabloids are really disappointed that I'm in the tabloids because they construct stories for what's going to be interesting or what's going to sell. I've never really been in that circumstance before, like on an ongoing basis."

The comedy is about a couple who are breaking up but can't relinquish their condo (stop reading here if you don't want to know how the movie ends). Vincent was asked about happy endings.

"In my own life?" he asked back. "I try to live a happy ending all the time, yes, but you're never really happy and you're always in transition. But I am very happy right now."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, May [illegible], 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
ABC
Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		The Da Vinci Deception		2006 Earthday Jam	
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song	SCQ Kids			The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Mastermind			
AXN		The Man In The Iron Mask					Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006 Italy		Fear Factor (Season V)		Sports Disaster TV		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Courage The Cowardly Dog			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Gundam Seed	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One				Ang Boyfriend Kong Pari		[illegible] Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang				TBA				Feda					
Cinemax		Japanese Story (3:15 PM)				The Firm (4:55 PM)					Bean			The Specialist			Night Falls On Manhattan		
CNN	Quest	World News	Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Art Of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		What Should You Do?		Cold Case		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Surface		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		How Do They Do It		American Chopper		Giant Of The [illegible]		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Mythbusters		Ten Ways		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Lizzie McGuire	Totally Spies Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody			Twitches			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies Movie	
ESPN	San Miguel Asian 9 Ball Tour			San Miguel Asian 9 Ball Tour			San Miguel Asian 9 Ball Tour	LPGA Golf LPGA Corning Classic NY USA 3rd rd				Major League Baseball [illegible] Yankees							
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend	American Dreams 3		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 4		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/Tuck 3		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blowout 2		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News		The Biggest Loser		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	For The Record Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Kakabakaba-boo		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel			Finding Buck McHenry			They Call Me Sir (5:15 PM)				Just Cause		Child Of Our Time 2001		Power & Beauty			Ordinary Miracles		
HBO	The Boy Who Could Fly				Honey			Radio (6:15 PM)				Shark Tale			HBO Full Access The Making Of Shark Tale	The Witches Of Eastwick (9:55 PM)			
Hero TV	Machine Robo Rescue	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Super Yoyo	Ragnarok	Musumet	The Slayers	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator	Hero TV Theatrebox	Dragons	Fire & Ice	Machine Robo Rescue	Dear Boys	Zenki	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				[illegible]	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hates Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Jack Yard	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box		Movie/Special/Mini Series		Trigger Happy TV	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network		Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special						Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Gary V.	MTV Hits	MTV News	Get Hitch'd	Homecoming	Laguna Beach		Pimp My Ride		Ashton's Greatest Punk'd Pranks	Punk'D	The 2006 MTV Australia Video Music Awards						MTV Screen	Sessions: Gary V
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic						Best of the Week: [illegible] (Hunt For The Kill)		Planet Football: World Cup Class #7	Planet Football: World Cup Class #8			MegaStructures: Kansai International Airport		Best of the Week: [illegible] Creative Asian Beauty					
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan ([illegible])						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress In Action		[illegible] League		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		The Working President	Special Events From Malacañang [illegible]
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly OddParents	Catscratch	Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly OddParents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Paano Ba Ang Magmahal				Siakbo				Ikaw Lamang				[illegible]				Ilusyon
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Kaleido Star		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports									NBA Jam	NBA Playoffs Eastern Conf Finals Game 1					Boxing: [illegible]				
Sports Plus		Rookie Manual	Mod TunerVision 13	Motoring Today		French Open '06 Day 1 1st rd													
Star Movies				The Librarian: Quest For The Spear			Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle			Hostage				Walking Tall (2004)			Creep		
Star World		Scrubs	Arrested Development	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville: The [illegible] (Series 4)		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time		The Scholar		Coupling		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23				PBL Unity Cup Game 2		Exposed					Y Speak Live		US Girls	Desperate Housewives		[illegible]	[illegible] (10:45PM)		Angel

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'Wild' dream comes true for 'sosyal' teen

RHIAN Ramos: Unlike many other aspiring young stars, she doesn't need to bail her family from poverty. In fact, she says she has "a thing" for charity, especially the Red Cross. She has no explanation, except to say, "I can't help it." ERIK ARAZAS

By Nini Valera

WHO IS RHIAN RAMOS and why is she Richard Gutierrez's leading lady in "Captain Barbell?"

Two weeks from now—when the series begins to air on GMA 7—no one will be thinking this about the 17-year-old junior high school student of De La Salle-Zobel in Alabang.

Rhian, whose real name is Rhian Denise Ramos Howell, could be as big as Angel Locsin. At least this is what the network is banking on.

Right now, Rhian is just having fun. "You could say that this is one of my wildest dreams," she told INQUIRER Entertainment during an exclusive interview.

"It's something that one would think about but wouldn't expect to ever happen," she said, referring to her grand entry to show biz Philippines. "Actually, in the beginning, my parents (Gareth and Clara Howell) wanted it more than I did."

Rhian is no stranger to television audiences, though. She recently appeared in a burger commercial, and her fresh appeal caught the attention of GMA 7 executives who are always on the look out for new faces.

"One day, Artist Center (GMA 7's talent management arm) called and asked me to audition for the part," Rhian recounted.

At the audition, Rhian blew her lines so badly, she didn't think she would get the part.

"I was so nervous, I blacked out, I don't know how I did it. I didn't know what I was saying as I tried to act, but I guess I conveyed the emotion," she explained.

Camille Prats, Nadine Samonte, Precious Lara Quigaman, Pauleen Luna, and a handful of commercial models also auditioned for the role of Leah, childhood friend of Captain Barbell when he is still Teng, the wimp.

Rhian said she had yet to get used to all the attention she is getting, especially from the movie press—who had started badgering her about the possibility of falling in love with Richard.

"Right now, we're just friends," said Rhian. "He's not single (Richard is dating model Georgina Wilson, who is based abroad), so I don't see that happening right now. But who wouldn't fall in love with him? He's a really a nice guy. He's funny and he has a good heart. But I can't say that [it's happening to me]."

She described her type of guy as someone who would not be afraid to joke around with her.

"If I'm going to have a partner, it would be someone that I really, really know well," Rhian said. "We have to be good friends first, best friends first."

In any case, she said, her parents had not allowed her to date.

Unlike most show biz wannabes, Rhian doesn't have to bail out her family from poverty.

"I want to help the world!" she declared. "I like working for a cause. You know, like Red Cross? I never pass the toll gate without giving to the Red Cross. It's my thing."

But she wants to shake off the "sosyal" tag.

"I heard *sosyal* several times tonight as a way to describe me," she said. "But you can ask my classmates. They will say I'm *kalog*. Some may even say I'm just one of the boys."

Well, she's ... "Inglesera," as they say.

She insisted, "I can also speak in Filipino."

This she did for "Captain Barbell," impressing the show's program manager Rams David, who even gave her a "6" rating for her acting.

What would she do with the money she's bound to make as an actress?

"Put it in the bank," Rhian said. "I may also have to buy a car that I could take on location shoots."

What has changed in her life so far?

"I'm still the same Rhian, and I'll try not to change," she promised. "But since this started, I have not had enough sleep. Right now, all I want to do is sleep."

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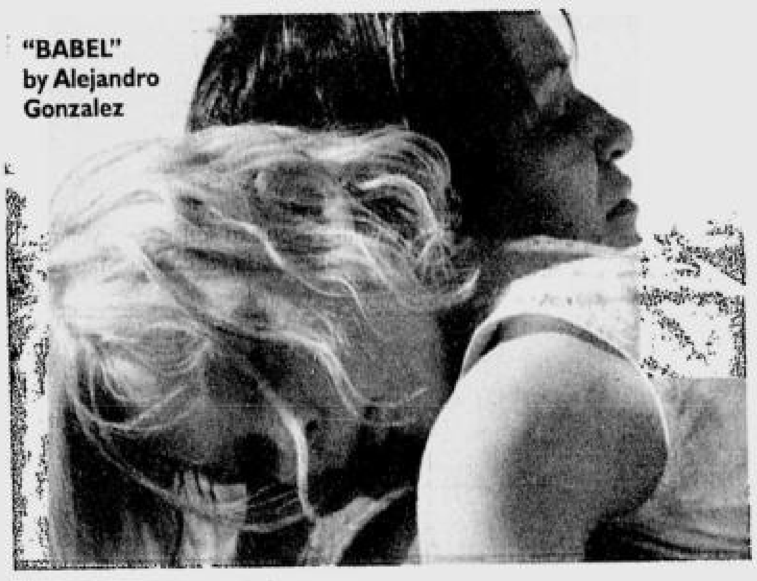

"BABEL" by Alejandro Gonzalez

It's still anyone's guess at Cannes

CANNES, FRANCE—WITH THE Cannes Film Festival all but wrapped, it is still anyone's guess who is going to carry off the top prizes and it might just be that the organizers have left the best for last.

Twenty films are in competition for the Palme d'Or which will be awarded by the jury at a glittering prize ceremony on Sunday (Monday in Manila), with four films still to be screened on Friday and Saturday.

A strong field for the 59th festival has left critics divided over which way the jury, headed for the first time by a Chinese director, Hong Kong's Wong Kar-Wai, is likely to go.

Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's homage to women "Volver" has remained a strong favorite since the beginning of the 12-day festival in the southern French resort, which has rolled out the red carpet for a galaxy of stars.

But both "Babel" from Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarittu — a masterful patchwork showing how one dangerous childish prank touches the lives of four families around the world — and Sofia Coppola's frothy, hip "Marie-Antoinette" are breathing down its neck in the critics' polls.

And while "Volver" provided a visual feast, and a fabulous performance from Penelope Cruz, many have questioned whether it is really Almodovar at his best.

Loneliness and miscommunication have been dominant themes, from the woman with the tragic past in Andrea Arnold's gripping debut feature "Red Road," to the ugly, shuffling loan shark in Paolo Sorrentino's black comedy "The Family Friend."

The same themes are taken up in the art house movies "Lights in the Dusk" from Finland's Ari Kaurismaki, and "The Climates" by Turkey's Nuri Bilge Ceylan, which you either loved or hated.

War was also central to many films. "Indigenes" from France's Rachid Bouchareb casts a rare spotlight on the forgotten soldiers from the French African colonies who helped liberate France in World War II.

Ken Loach's powerful "The Wind That Shakes the Barley" focuses on the early days of the Irish civil war, while some indeterminate war, which we take to be Iraq, is the backdrop for "Flanders" from Bruno Dumont.

There is politics, too, of course, from the direct attack on Italy's former premier Silvio Berlusconi in Nanni Moretti's "The Caiman," to the more subtle intertwining of a love story and the Tiananmen Square crackdown in Lou Ye's "Summer Palace," to Richard Linklater's uneven expose "Fast Food Nation." Even Armaggedon gets a look-in in Richard Kelly's disappointing "Southland Tales" which according to Screen International the US director is recutting after it was received with a whimper rather than a bang here.

"Ironically the wow factor appears to be all that is missing in a year that hindsight may judge to have been better than average," wrote Screen International. "Too many films have been guilty of biting off more than they can chew."

Jury member French director Patrice Leconte told AFP the nine-strong team was getting on like a house on fire.

"There are some films that I love and some I don't like at all, but it's a real pleasure to be able to talk spontaneously and calmly about them with people who are in the same business as me," he said. *AFP*

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SPIN CITY

FOR KOZ, HIP-HOP IS ABOUT MAKING a statement—about his life, ideas, feelings.

Koz—born J Santos—recently launched his debut album, "Soul of a Soldier." The tracks include the street anthems "Against the Grain" and "Born in Hell," club sizzlers "Ride with a G" and "ICE," and a tribute to his countrymen, "Ako."

He describes himself as "unpredictable," but one who values truth the most.

"Soul of a Soldier," he says, seeks to reflect these qualities.

KOZ

Pinoy classics

The *kundiman* is given a new lease on life in "Alaala," Richard Merk's newest album from Manna Records.

"Alaala" is a collection of 13 love songs given a fresh, jazzy interpretation by the artist. These are: "Hindi Kita Malimot," "Kailangan Kita," "Ikaw," "Ang Tangi Kong Pag-Ibig," "Bato sa Buhangin," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Maalaala Mo Kaya," "Ikaw Lamang and Mamahalin," "Sapagka't Kami'y Tao Lamang," "Hahabu Habol," "Mahiwaga," "Diyos Lamang a Nakakaalam," and the title track.

The album was recorded and mixed award-winning sound engineer Ji Sarthou. Call 750-1482.

Pink not dead

Multiple Grammy winner, multi-pl inum selling Pink's latest album is "I Not Dead."

It is touted to be "everything it shou be—a stylistic evolution, stunning displ of craftsmanship, and a very person scrapbook of everywhere she's been a everywhere she's going."

The album is proof that Pink can b the blues as well as she rocks the dan floor. It features the hit single "Stup Girls." Now available fro Sony BMG.

Gary's 'Relevance'

Gary Valenciano's newest album "Relevance," his first all-original coll tion in three years. "The think I like abo this album," Gary V says, "is that it's n going back to what I used to do—t sounds and vocals are like what I did

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
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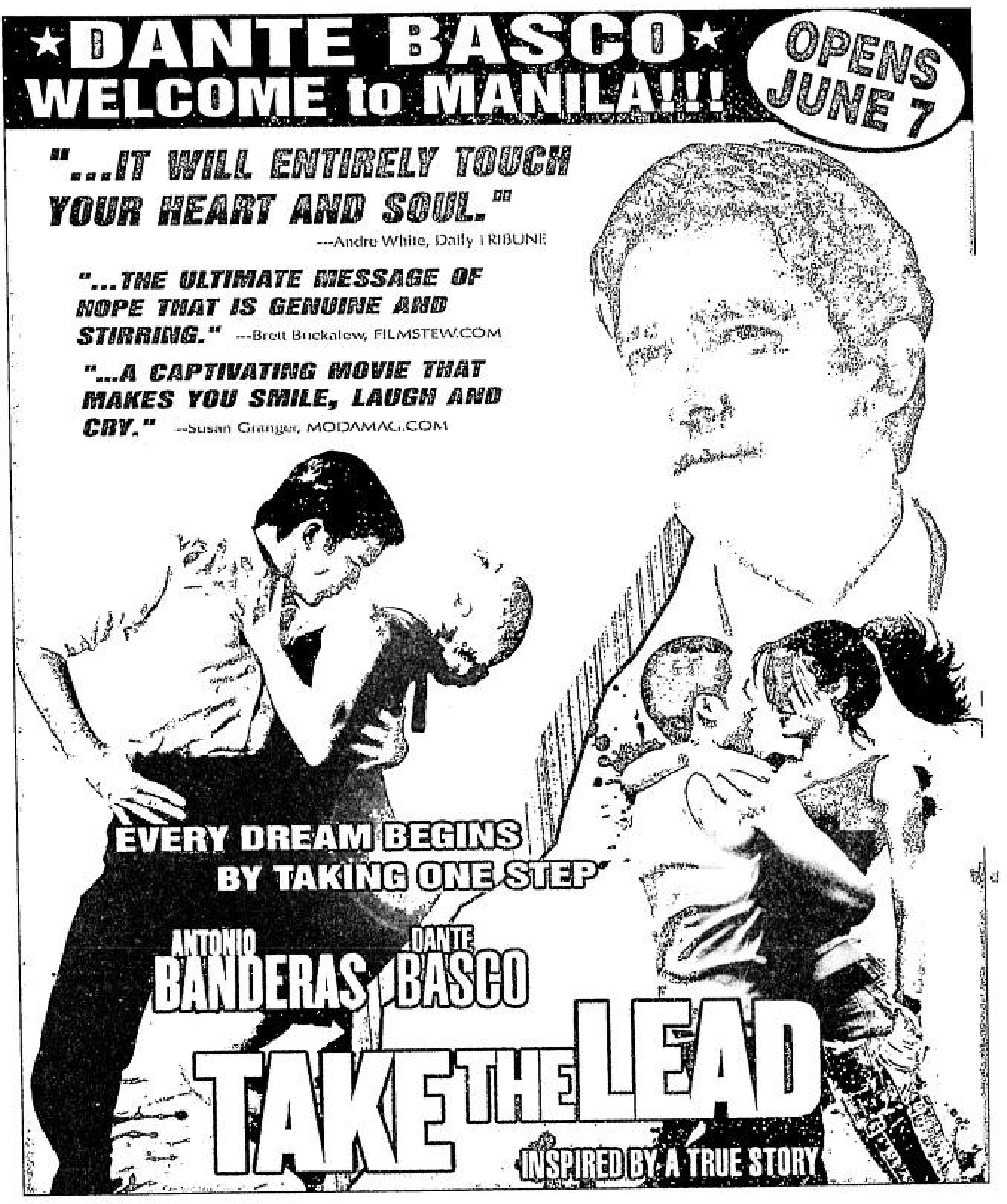
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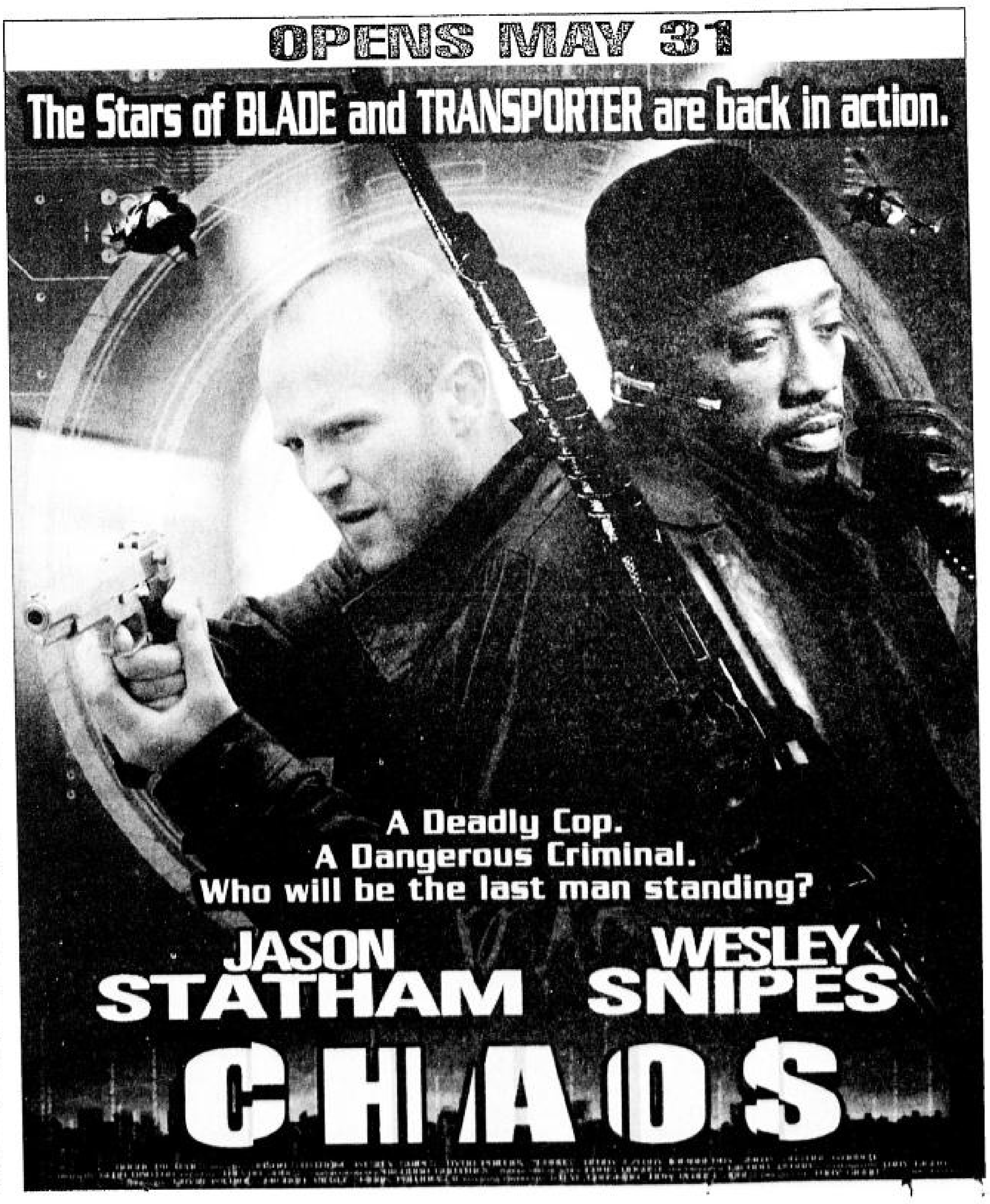
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World-class keyboardist Romy Posadas' first CD, "Romy Posadas Live in Hollywood," is now available at Music One and Tower Records.

Recorded at the Celebrity Center in Hollywood, the CD contains 13 tracks—from Gershwin favorites to Duke Ellington and Miles Davis classics. Call 7574720.

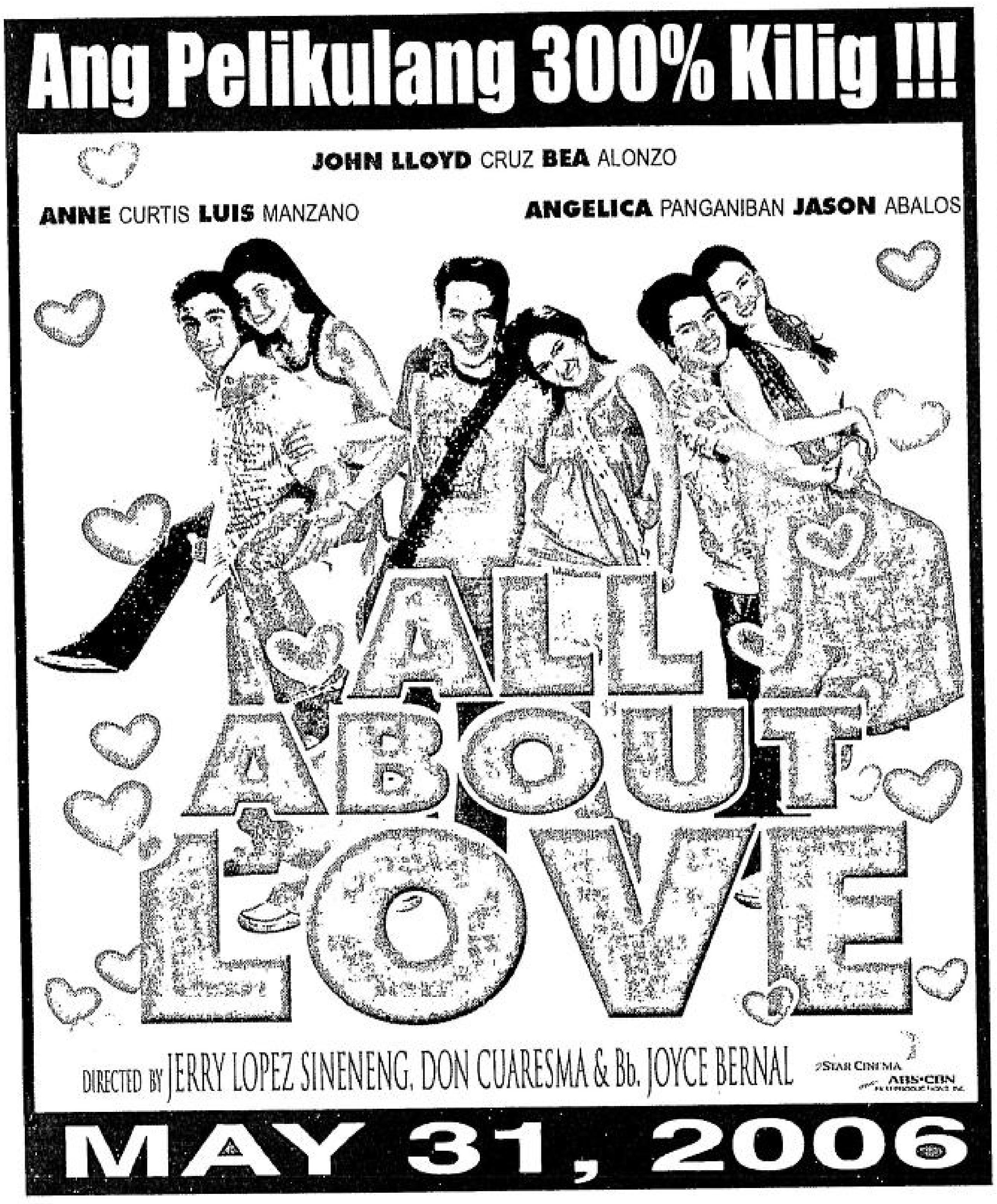
Carrie Underwood's debut

"American Idol" 2005 champ Carrie Underwood's award-winning debut album, "Some Hearts," is now available in record stores nationwide. With this collection, Underwood returns to her country roots. The CD has sold over three million copies in the United States.

"I never thought this could actually happen to me," the singer said. I'm so grateful."

The album features the monster hit "Jesus, Take the Wheel."

PINK



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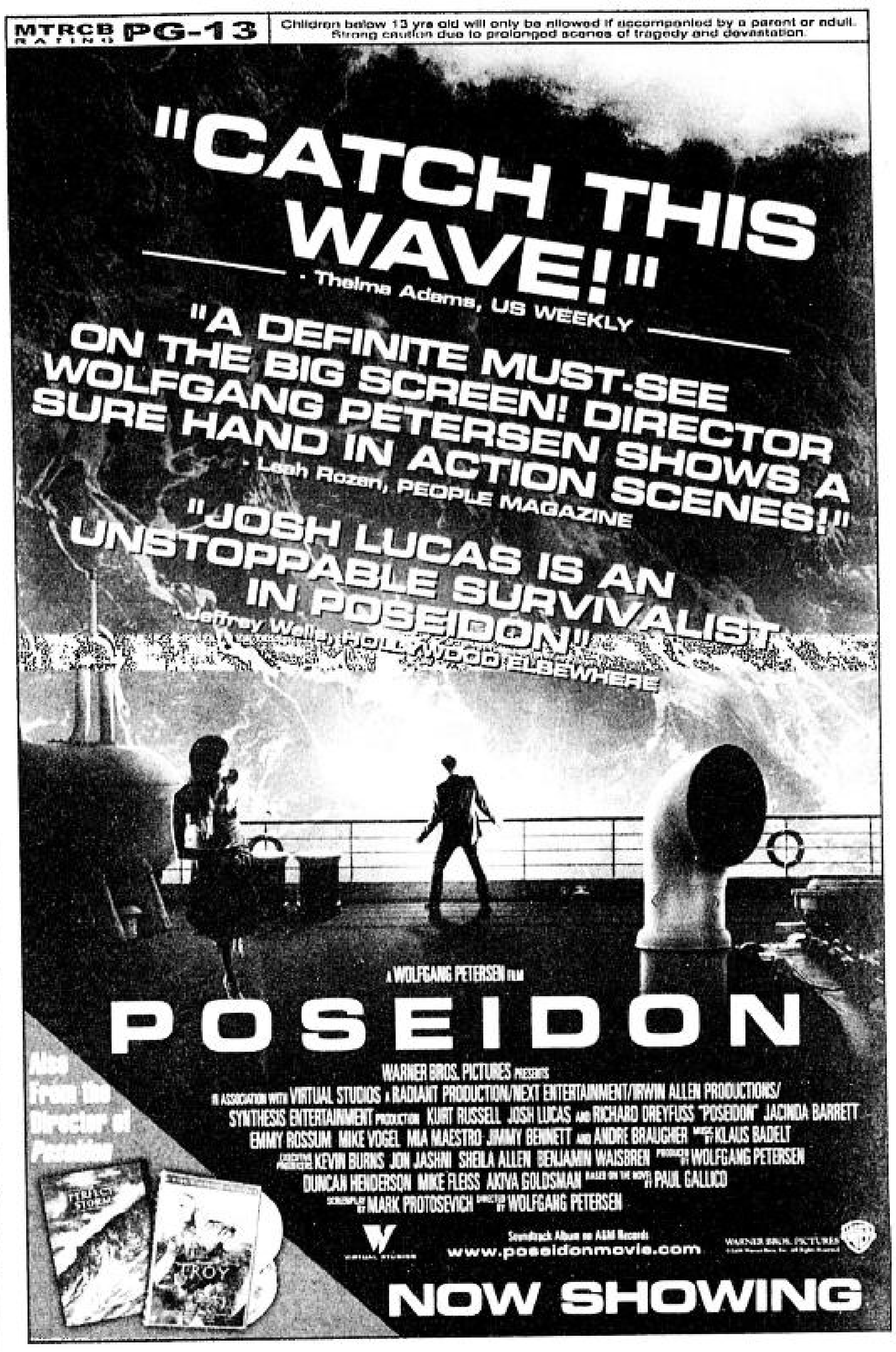

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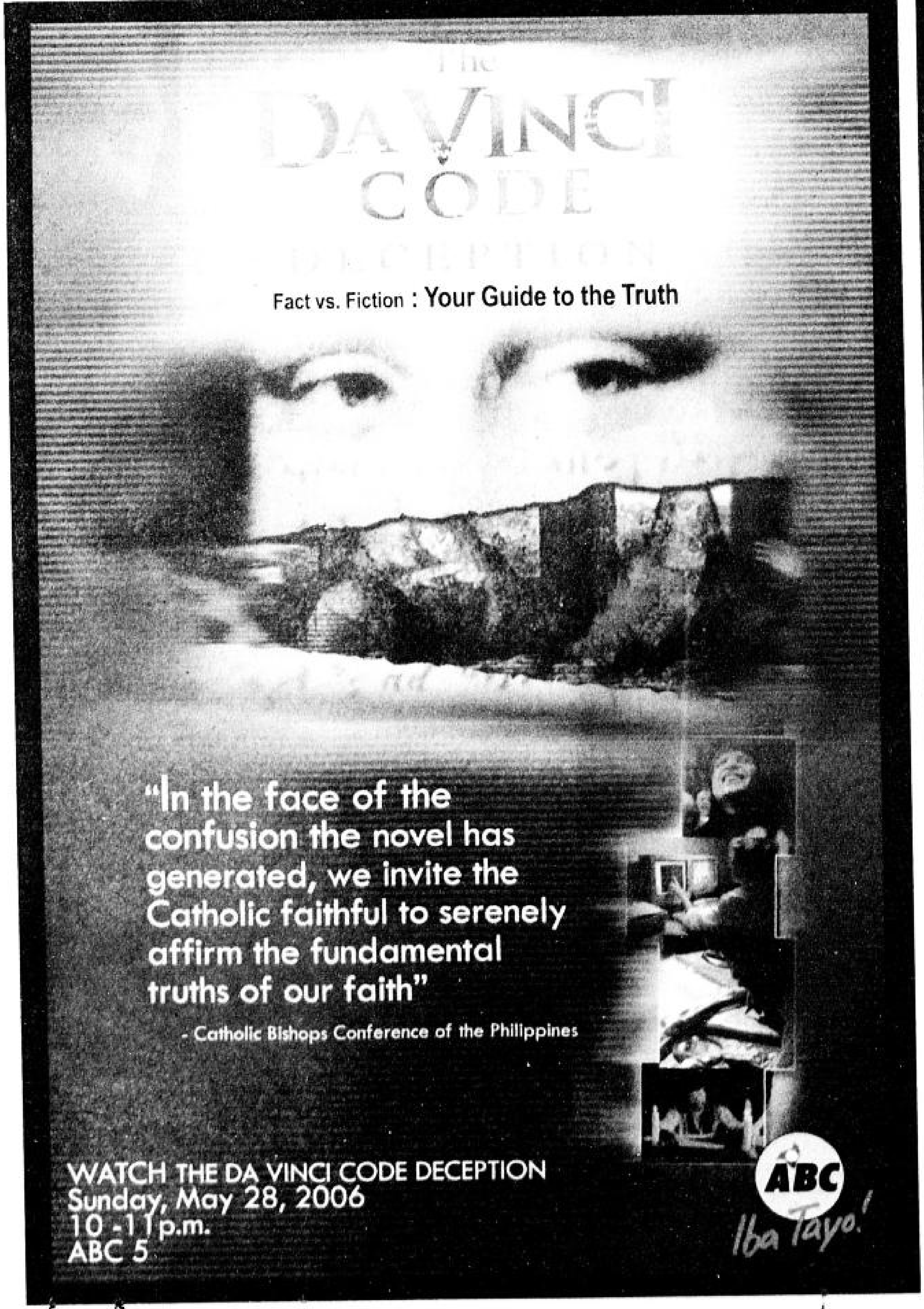

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Queer eye for Imee

RUSHES

BORGY Manotoc

BORGY MANOTOC'S MOM, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, is said to have wanted a daughter so badly, she attempted to make her eldest son gay. "But she didn't succeed," quipped Borgy.

As Ornusa Cadness is his witness, so help him.

One out of three

Three Kapuso talents were invited to be part of the new ABC 5 talent search "Philippine Idol." Only one confirmed; the other two hemmed and hawed. Did GMA 7 warn them against crossing network lines? Reps of the Kapuso channel say no way.

But of course.

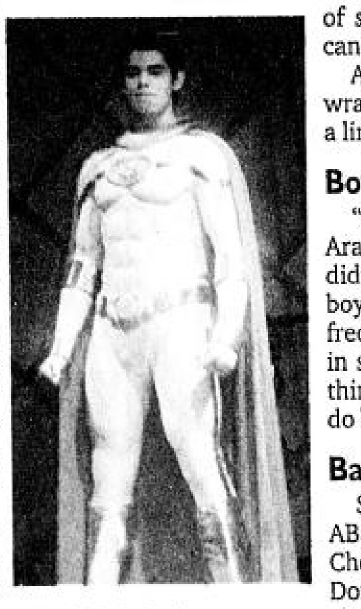
RYAN Cayabyab and Ryan Agoncillo

Ryan C on Taylor

Ryan Cayabyab, one of the three judges in the upcoming "Philippine Idol," on newest "American Idol" Taylor Hicks: "From the moment I viewed the Las Vegas auditions I knew he was a genuine musician—not only a singer but a 'soul on wing.' He gives his all, bares his soul. He's original."

"He was my favorite, but I never thought he would even reach the finals. Up until the finals, I couldn't guess who America voted for. It was a relief! This season's crop is outstanding, inspiring."

The other Ryan on RP "Idol," host Agoncillo, on Taylor's win: "It's a triumph of the underdog. Simon Cowell turned him down at the audition level, remember?"



RICHARD Gutierrez

Jumping ship

After Marvin Agustin and Patrick Garcia, another Kapamilya star is jumping ship. This time, a major ABS-CBN female talent is reportedly moving to GMA 7 in three months.

CHIQUI Roa-Puno with her sons

However, she is merely going back "where she belongs," as the old GMA 7 slogan goes.

She was a Kapuso prior to her move to the Kapamilya camp, where she churned out a monster hit movie, but faltered with a string of shows that were eventually canceled.

A source said she is just wrapping up a soap opera with a limited run.

ARA Mina

Boy toys

"Bubble Gang" bombshells Ara Mina and Diana Zubiri didn't blush when rumored boyfriends Polo Ravales and Alfred Vargas posed, scantily clad, in sexy magazines. Well... anything the boys can do, they can do better.

DIANA Zubiri and Alfred Vargas

Bag ladies

Spotted at the Loop in the ABS-CBN compound were Cherry Pie Picache and Eugene Domingo, who became extra chummy on the ABS-CBN cooking show "Makuha Ka sa Tikim." Eugene gave Cherry Pie a birthday gift—and huge tan leather bag. Eugene has a matching bag in dark brown.

Who did that?

Who designed Richard Gutierrez's costume for the new GMA 7 series "Captain Barbell"? They say it was Hollywood designer Miles Teves, who's also created the costumes in "Batman Forever," "Robocop" and "Spider-man." Okay, but who made it?

Indefatigable star

That's Sarah Geronimo, if you still didn't know. The singer supposedly went straight from the hospital to the airport for a gig in wintry Alaska. Upon her return, she allegedly went straight from the airport to ABS-CBN for "ASAP." No wonder her vocal chords are acting up.

HILARY Swank

Seeing stars in HK

Speaking of globe-trotting stars. For First Pacific's 25th anniversary, businessman Manny Pangilinan flew a slew of singing stars—Kuh Ledesma, Zsazsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha, Martin Nievera, Christian Bautista and Sharon Cuneta—to Hong Kong for a special concert on Thursday, with Louie Ocampo as musical director and Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino as hosts.

Mega in Lucena

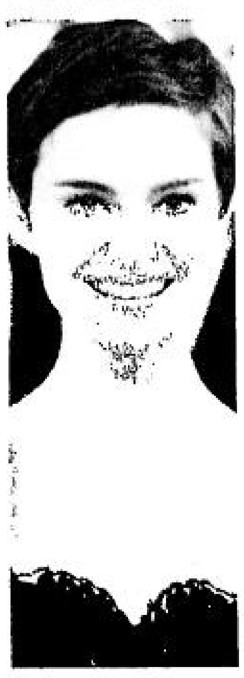
According to Sandra Chavez of Artist House, Megastar Sharon Cuneta was in tears at the end of her concert in Lucena, Quezon province, last May 20. "She was touched by the huge turnout and inspired by the audience's warmth. The Quezon Convention Center seats 7,000—it was filled to capacity, a great kick-off for Mega's Philippine tour."

CATE Blanchett

Blanchett plays Dylan

In New York, the Associated Press announced that Oscar winner Cate Blanchett, who has portrayed Queen Elizabeth and Katharine Hepburn, is about to add another legend to her resume: Bob Dylan.

The 37-year-old Australian actress is one of seven actors to play Dylan at various stages of his career in the biopic, "I'm Not There," tentatively scheduled for release next year. She will portray a specific aspect of Dylan's personality, embodied by an androgynous singer-songwriter character named Jude, according to Killer Films, the movie's production company.



NATALIE Portman

Shoe brand 'Idol'

"American Idol" (2005) Carrie Underwood is the latest image model for Skechers Footwear. In the ad campaign, the company highlights her love for fashion and animals in equal measure.

Stress-free mom

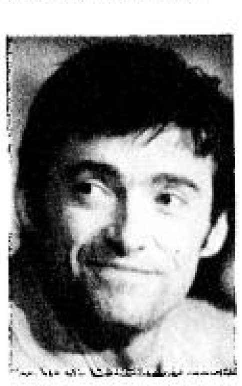
How does Chiqui Roa-Puno stay stress-free? By keeping her family—husband Robbie (younger brother of Ronnie and Dong), and their sons Randy, 12 and Nick, 10—illness-free. "I make sure nobody gets sick around the house." Whatever she's doing to ensure that, it seems to work. No one's been to the hospital in that household.

SHARON Cuneta

H'wood stars for HK director

In Los Angeles, Agence France Presse reports that Jude Law, Natalie Portman and Rachel Weisz as well as singer Norah Jones will perform in the first English-language film made by Hong Kong director Wong Kar-Wai.

Quoting the Daily Variety, AFP said Wong, who made the celebrated "In the Mood for Love" (2000) will make "My Blueberry Nights," a romantic comedy in the form of a "road movie" in which Jones will play a traveler along the American road looking for love.



HUGH Jackman AP

Latest from Hilary

We mean Hilary Swank. AFP also reports, again quoting Daily Variety, that the Oscar winner will star in "P.S. I Love You," a romantic comedy based on Irish author Cecilia Ahern. Swank, 31, portrays a widow who finds notes left by her late husband to guide her through her new life.

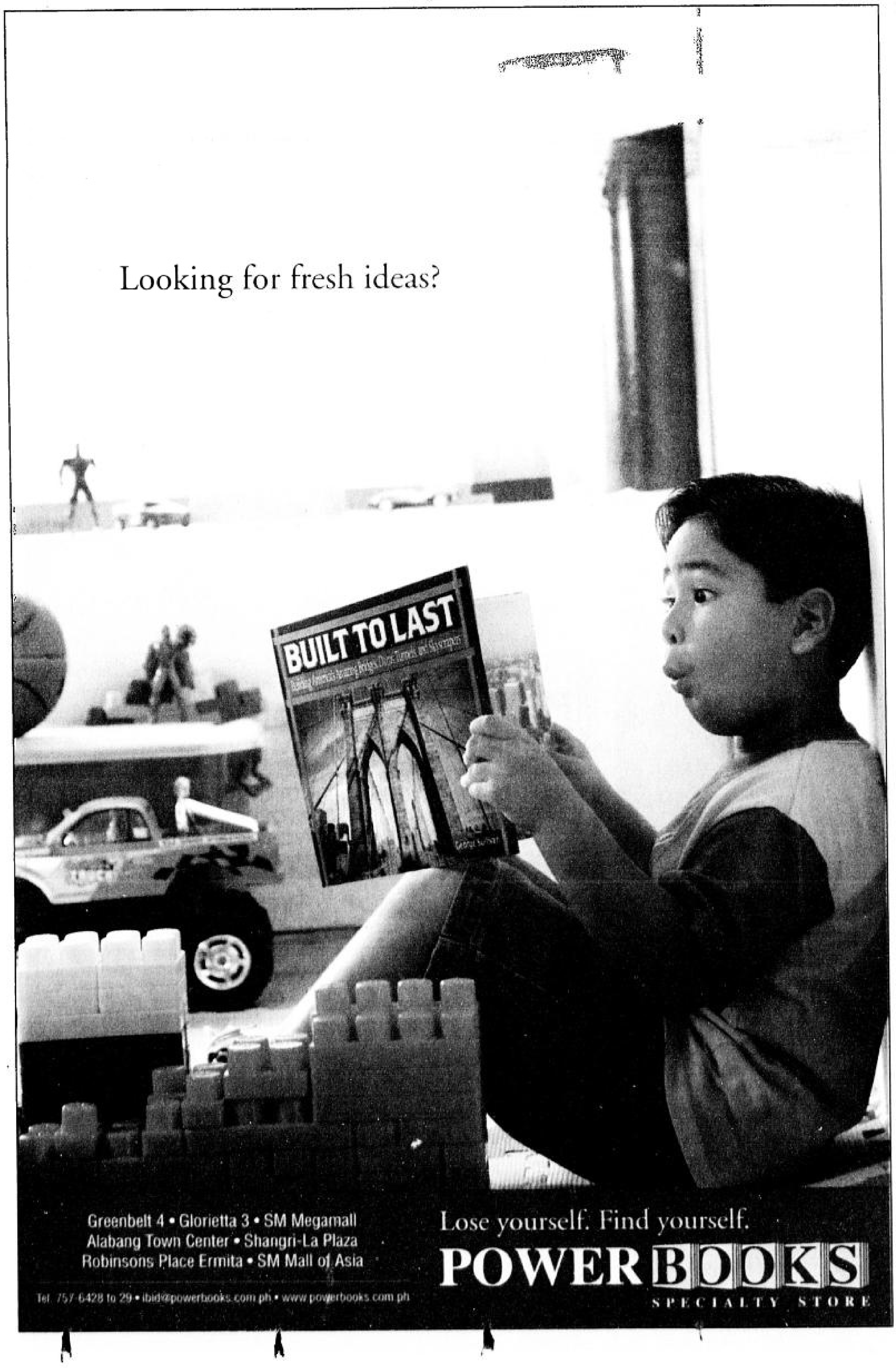
Hot, hot Jackman

Cannes, France—Australian actor Hugh Jackman's Hollywood star is on the rise, with his turn in the latest "X-Men" movie and his full slate of upcoming productions confirming him as a bona fide A-lister.

The 37-year-old from Sydney is in such hot demand that he has no less than eight films in the pipeline.

He told a media conference at the Cannes Film Festival: "I'm a kid from the suburbs, in Wahroonga in Australia, so [being here] is amazing. On top of that, my wife is a brilliant actress, hasn't done a film in five years because of our children. She decides to do a movie and... it's in the Director's Fortnight. I don't think I could have written that script, you know?"

CARRIE Underwood



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'You can't do a good job if you're just doing it because you need one'

Car exec says making a difference is more important than getting rich

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ONE EVENING, HENRY T. CO, PRESIDENT OF Ford Group Philippines, saw his 10-year-old daughter looking downcast. When he asked why, she told him she did not do well in her exam.

"Did you give it your best?" Co asked his child.

The 51-year-old executive gently reminded his daughter that life is not just academics. It is what you put into it that matters. But he adds that "you have to be more successful than your parents—that is the ultimate measure of success."

If such is the measure, then Co, who speaks Chinese, Japanese, English and Filipino, can certainly be described as successful. Yet while he achieved more than his parents did, his success has been guided by what he learned from his father—not to be guided by money alone.

"My father worked for a company he had investments in. He was happy with what he had. He never chased money. He worked contented," Co states.

HENRY CO took over the reigns of Ford Group Philippines in 2002

HENRY with wife Lucy in Banaue

Many times in his life, Co made decisions that meant getting less but giving more.

Co's starting point came 30 years ago.

Then a young engineering student at the University of the Philippines, he bumped into a friend who showed him an ad looking for students who were willing to study in Japan for $500 a month.

"I got dragged into applying," muses Co.

The irony is, he passed but his friend failed. With his parents' blessings, he set off for Japan.

Pursuing a degree in Japan at that time was not a very attractive option.

"My image of Japan then was that of the Japanese still wearing kimono," recalls Co.

He may have found a few kimono-clad Japanese, but he found out studying in Japan was no walk in the park. The scholarship was under the Monbusho, or the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, of Japan, and courses were to be conducted in Japanese. Co, with 34 other students from all over the world, underwent an intensive yearlong Japanese language training.

After learning the language, the students had to take the university entrance test. Co went on to the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Hurling the entrance exam was easy enough, but taking courses—engineering ones at that—in Japanese was something else.

"In the first few weeks at the university, I realized I only understood half of what the teachers were saying. And with the old professors, I did not understand anything at all," Co says.

There were times he and a Singaporean friend would wait in an empty classroom, wondering what had happened to their class, only to realize that they misunderstood the room assignment.

FIRST JOB

GRADUATE student at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, 1980

He and his friend studied hard and found themselves the only ones listening during classes. Their Japanese classmates would party until late at night and sleep in class—some of them even snoring. The teachers simply ignored them. Yet come exam time, their classmates would get high marks while Co and his friend could not do as well.

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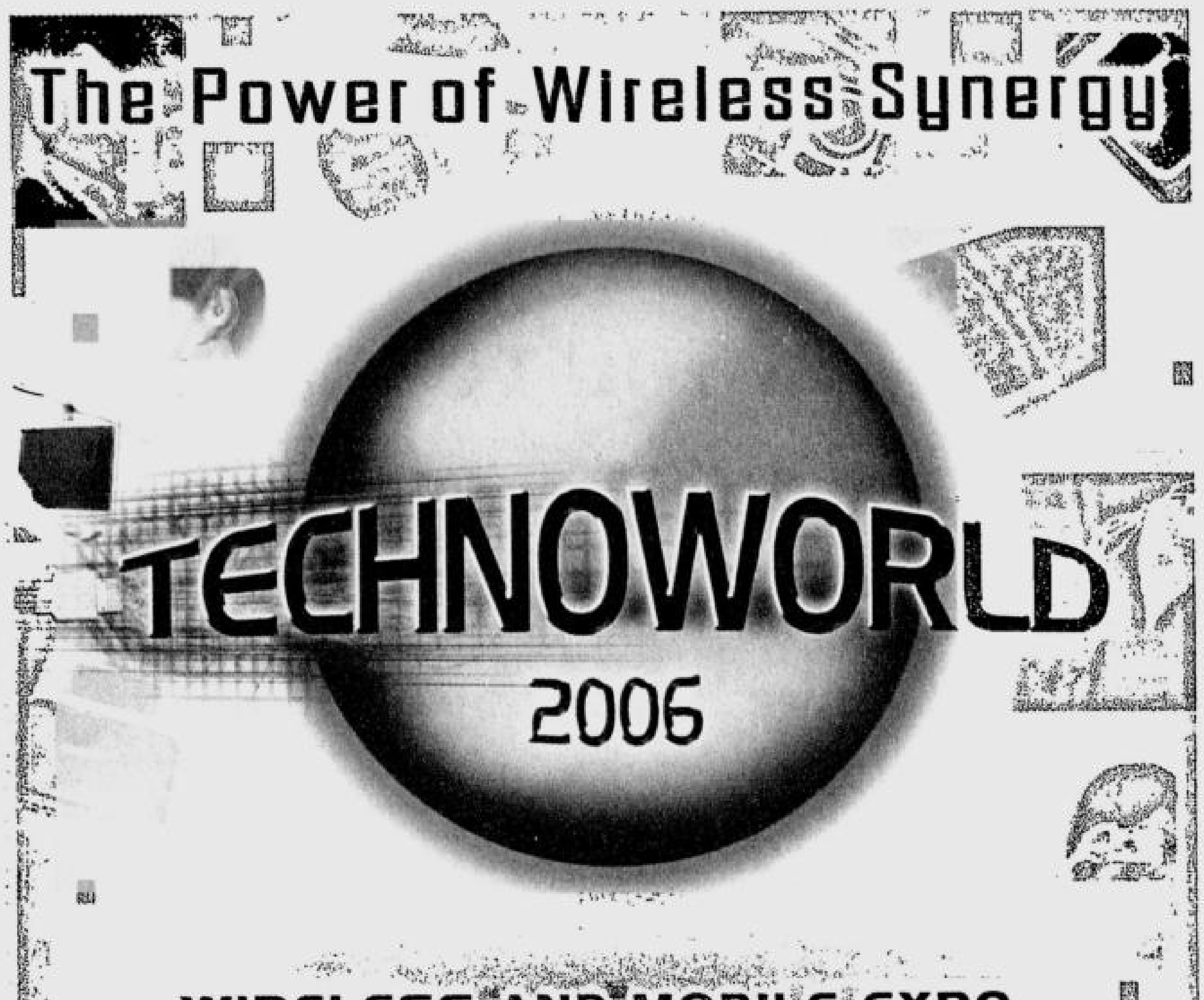
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Matching innovations

BEING AT THE FOREFRONT OF A SERIES OF inventions that has benefited consumers all over the world, Philips, according to industry observers, has created a legacy of innovation that is very hard to match.

For instance, Philips was the first to invent the medical X-ray tube, which later on led to the production of radios and the very first electric shaver. It was also instrumental in the development of television pictures, transistors and integrated circuits and, by 1963, had become the inventor of the compact audiocassette.

The company outdid itself in 1983 by inventing the compact disc (CD) that revolutionized music listening. In 1997, Philips produced another home electronics phenomenon—the DVD.

Siince 1891, the Philips heritage worldwide, according to Philips consumer electronics marketing communications manager Ria Nunez, "has always been about quality and innovation. In fact, we've changed the way the world works with our innovations."

Philips, which is into lighting, medical systems and semiconductors, marks its 50th anniversary in the Philippines this year.

Philips Electronics, ranked by Electronic Business magazine as one of the world's biggest electronics companies in 2005 and Europe's largest, with sales of 30.4 billion euros (about P213 billion) in 2005, has been continuously inventing and devising ways to enhance consumers' everyday lives by giving them more product choices in home entertainment, personal expression and productivity.

Last year, Philips launched the "Sense and Simplicity" campaign to represent the core value of all its products and headline all its future product innovations.

Today, Philips, Nunez said, continues its legacy of innovation through the introduction of revolutionary products. One of these is the Ambilight technology for Philips' series of popular, award-winning flat TVs.

The Ambilight, a revolutionary ambient light technology introduced in 2004, is the first of its kind to create a relaxing viewing experience by reducing glare and reflections through a balanced amount of light around the TV set. A further evolution of the technology—the Ambilight 2 TV—was recently named "Product of the Year" by US magazine Electronic House.

Another revolutionary feature of Philips flat TVs—the Pixel Plus 2 HD—offers ultimate sharpness, true natural detail, increased depth impression, and vivid colors from multiple sources including HD and DVD content. "With these innovative technologies, consumers reach a new dimension in TV viewing," Nunez said.

You can't do a good job ...

From page B1

This went on for a year until they discovered the secret of their classmates—you need to be a member of a club that had compiled all the exam questions of the school for the past 20 years.

And most of the time, these were the questions that came out in the exams.

And the reason why Japanese students goofed off was that it was very tough to get into college. So, once they get in, they party and have fun to make up for the earlier years they were deprived of partying because they spent the time studying.

But there were some conscientious students who went on to pursue post-graduate studies. Co was one of them. He received a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering, also on a scholarship.

The time of reckoning came after graduation. The Tokyo Institute professors then were influential in finding jobs for their students. When his professor asked Co what he was going to do, he said he will find work in a bank.

"My professor got mad and told me the Japanese government did not fund my education for me to go to a bank," Co smiles.

He followed his mentor and landed a job at Toshiba as an engineer in their power plant. But after one year on the job, where he earned quite well, Co asked himself: "What is my competitive edge here? Will I make a difference?"

He realized that in Japan, he had no edge over the other engineers. Yet in Manila, there were only a few Japanese-educated Filipinos. The Japanese economy at that time was strong, and a growing number of investors were going to the Philippines.

After almost 10 years in Japan, Co went home to find work that he knew would pay him lower but where he felt he would have fulfillment in work and would make a difference.

He came back April 1983, a few months before Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. was assassinated. He joined Pilipinas Nissan which was just being set up. He got a P3,000 monthly pay, way below the $1,000 he was getting at Toshiba. Soon after joining, the Philippines was plunged into an economic and political crisis following Aquino's death.

"Activities in the plant shrunk and I wondered what I got myself into," recalls Co.

To keep himself busy he took up an MBA at UP Diliman. He also considered migrating to New Zealand. But after finding out "there are 30 million sheep, 5 million cattle and 2 million people, it scared me," Co laughs.

Co stuck it out with Nissan, holding various posts. In 1986, with a new government in place, the economy picked up and Co was kept busy for the next decade.

He considered the work he put in setting up Nissan's plant in Sta. Rosa as the highlight of his career.

"But when I moved into my room in the plant, I asked myself, is this where I want to spend the rest of my life in?

By that time Co had been with the car firm for 14 years, and way past the time frame he had set for himself—he wanted to head a company by age 40.

He candidly asked his Japanese boss how far he would go with the firm, whether he would ever run the business.

The Japanese was honest enough to tell him the possibility was very remote.

Co knew it was time to move on.

Ford, the American car maker, soon got wind of his decision and set up a meeting. He went through a series of meetings with various Ford executives, all the way to Detroit.

"They asked me why I quit and my answer was I didn't want a job, I wanted a career."

"I talked to a cross section of people in Ford and I got a consistent message—that it's a level playing field as far as opportunities are concerned."

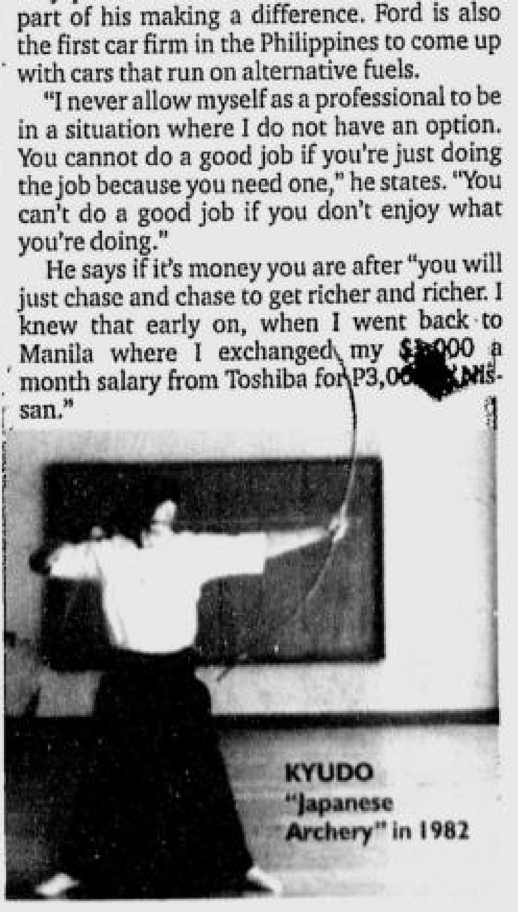
In August 1998, he joined the car firm as manufacturing director of Ford Motor Co. Philippines. He was responsible for the start-up operations of the new manufacturing facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Before being appointed president on April 1, 2002, he was posted as business director of Ford Asean operations in Thailand for two years.

It was under Co's term that Ford started the export of vehicles from the Philippines. He is very passionate about this as he feels this is part of his making a difference. Ford is also the first car firm in the Philippines to come up with cars that run on alternative fuels.

"I never allow myself as a professional to be in a situation where I do not have an option. You cannot do a good job if you're just doing the job because you need one," he states. "You can't do a good job if you don't enjoy what you're doing."

He says if it's money you are after "you will just chase and chase to get richer and richer. I knew that early on, when I went back to Manila where I exchanged my $[illegible]000 a month salary from Toshiba for P3,0[illegible] Nissan."



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ANTIPOLO CITY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,912 sqm. F.A.: 514 sqm.
Lot 11 Don Celso S. Tuazon Rd., Valley Golf Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,556,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 241 sqm. F.A.: 57 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 30 Cogeo Vill. Bagong Nayon
Minimum Bid Price : 765,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 47, Road 22, Cogeo Vill. Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,192,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 482 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 2 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,466,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 478 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 3 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,363,000.00

CALOOCAN

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 287 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9, Guljo Street, Silanganan Subdivision, Llano
Minimum Bid Price : 707,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 281 sqm. F.A.: 127 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9, Guijo Street, Silanganan Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price : 1,023,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 30.50 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 11-D/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 24.20 sqm. F.A.: 46 sqm.
Lot 11-F/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd, Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 287,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 166 sqm.
#289 Camarin Rd., Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 2,559,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
(Lot 17-B/Blk 354) 132 Binhagan St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 1,029,000.00

LAS PINAS

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 63 sqm. F.A.: 52 sqm.
L7B10 Santan St., Camella Townhomes, Talon 3
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 56 sqm. F.A.: 59 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 1 Ch Woodsrow Townhomes 3, Aguilar Ave.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,169,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 803 sqm. F.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1, J Racasa St., Bf Resort Vill., Las Pinas City
Minimum Bid Price : 7,228,000.00

MAKATI

LOT 15 - Condo Unit
F.A.: 48.17 sqm.
Unit Ug-12 Star Centrum Codominium 317 Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,053,000.00

LOT 16 - CONDO
F.A.: 127 sqm.
Unit 333 9Th Floor, Sagittarius Residential Condominium Building I, Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price : 5,264,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 359 sqm. F.A.: [illegible]
Lot 2 [illegible] St., San [illegible] Vill
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price : 8,066,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 309 sqm. F.A.: sqm.
Lot 7 Blk16 No.1720 Escuela St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price : 6,397,000.00

MALABON

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 494 sqm.
(Lot 7) #18 Interior M.Aquino St., Niugan
Minimum Bid Price : 727,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 294 sqm. F.A.: 116 sqm.
(Lot 31 Blk 10) 31 R. Diaz St., Marville Subd., Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,236,000.00

MANILA

LOT 21 - Condo Unit
F.A.: 35.20 sqm.
Unit 514 5Th Floor Plaza Towers Condominium Leon Guerrero Ermita
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 61.63 sqm. F.A.: 340 sqm.
1-B-3C-1-B/ 4041 #1620 G. Tuazon Corner Loreto St. Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price : 3,215,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 217.40 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 21-D-4 #2401 Int. 21 Dagohoy, Singalong, Malate
Minimum Bid Price : 2,667,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 325 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 8 / Blk 1, # 104(New) Alley 1, Dona Filomena Subd., West Crame, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 3,816,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 443 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 7/Blk 101, Urbino St., Kabayanan, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 5,383,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 47.90 sqm. F.A.: 89 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 279 1717 F. Varona Near Dandan Sts., Tondo, Manila
Minimum Bid Price : 774,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 398 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
L5B1 Rolling Hills Dr., Monterey Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 788,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 373 sqm.
(Lot 35-A-2-A) #78 Int. National Road, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,417,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

LOT 29 - CONDO UNIT & 12.50 PARKING SLOT
F.A.: 37.50 sqm.
(Unit B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Bldg. II, Cluster 14, Westmont Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,011,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 502 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-A, Int. Of Papa Pio St., Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,868,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 296 sqm. F.A.: 155 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6, 9-A & 9-B Roselle St., Mon-El Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,304,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-B-1-B Interior Of Papa Pio St Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 228 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 2 Nina Ricci Drive, Savvy 25, Brgy. Marcelo
Minimum Bid Price . 925,000.00

PASAY

LOT 34 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 404 sqm.
Lot 3, #355 F. Rosario St., Sta. Clara
Minimum Bid Price : 4,848,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 60.90 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot C-2-1 Unit 5 Hernandez Townhomes, 56 Don Hernandez St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price : 2,940,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 36 - 3-STOREY BLDG, ROOFDECK, CARPORT
L.A.: 94 sqm. F.A.: 247 sqm.
L49B15 48 Sto.Nino St.Villa Espana
Minimum Bid Price : 2,700,000.00

LOT 37 - CONDO UNITS
L.A.: sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Unit#S 3 & 4, 3Rd Flr. Heart Of The City Condominium, Sgt. Esguerra Corner Eugenio Lopez St., Brgy. South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price : 3,192,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 44.50 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
(Lot 58-C/B225) #17-C Bernardo St., Brgy Manbio, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 938,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 461 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
11- B Eligino St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price . 6,346,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 416 sqm.
L6 B2 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd., Seminary Rd., Bagbag, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 3,782,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 488 sqm.
Lot 3 Quezon St., Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 2,957,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 364 sqm. F.A.: 159 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 33 Butler St., Tumbok Bronx St., Fairmont I Subd. North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 2,953,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDOMINIUM
F.A.: 50.16 sqm.
Ul3 3/F Rsg Condominium, Ermin Garcia St., Brgy Pinagkaisahan,Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 933,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 250 sqm. F.A.: 167 sqm.
Lot 5-C-9 # 11 Private Road 20Th Ave. Brgy. Manga Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 3,080,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 312-B & 312-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,101,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 612-B & 612-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,215,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 481.60 sqm. F.A.: 196 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 7 #6 Promenade Lane, Bluendge B Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 9,153,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 51.50 sqm. F.A.: 109 sqm.
Lot 27-A, Portion Of Lot 27/Blk 33, #1-A (Townhouse Unit) Bakawan St., Veterans Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,963,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 617 sqm. F.A.: 461 sqm.
Lot 3 & 4 Blk 1 # 7 Floral St. Delta Village Brgy. Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 3,448,000.00

LOT 50 - Makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 601-A-4-A-5-A Interior Of # 17 Gloria Ii Tandand Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm.
F.A.: 428 sqm.
23-B / Lch-17 #32 Hyacinth St. Roxas District
Minimum Bid Price : 2,320,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 526.40 sqm. F.A.: 384 sqm.
Lot 25 & 27/Blk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6
Minimum Bid Price . 5,208,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 288.60 sqm. F.A.: 280 sqm.
5/34 #2 Jose Ma. Hugo St. Cor. May Isa St. Manila Project 4
Minimum Bid Price : 3,450,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 444.30 sqm. F.A.: 377 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk132, #19 Masikap St., Pinahan
Minimum Bid Price : 8,533,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 400 sqm. F.A.: [illegible]
Lot [illegible] St
Bo[illegible] Pasong Tamo
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 3,079,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 181 sqm. F.A.: 86 sqm.
Lot 492-Dd-9 # 39 San Ignacio St. Brgy. Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price . 1,008,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 418.40 sqm. F.A.: 267 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 23 # 11 Maalindog St. Up Village Diliman
Minimum Bid Price : 6,799,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 1-A Jasmin St., Dona Juana/Gitamu Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,947,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 192.15 sqm. F.A.: 192 sqm.
Lot 246-B-2-B # 44 Baesa Road Brgy. Baesa Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,823,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 869 sqm.
Lot 199-B-3-K, Outskirt Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 540 sqm.
L11B1 & L2B5 Kasiyahan St Brgy Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,215,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 820 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 10 Sunnyside Hts., Filinvest Homes II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price : 3,116,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 63 -LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 206 sqm. F.A.: 151 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 21 #23 Rial St. Meralco Village, San Juan, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,056,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 319 sqm.
Lot 4043-A-11, Barrio Pantay, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5, Canlibot, Brgy. San Gabriel, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 36,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 745 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 1, Forest Hills Estate Subd Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,133,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,098 sqm.
Lot 33 Blk 10, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,046,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
(Lot 42-A Pasolo Lolomboy Estate) #39(86) Pasolo Rd, Pasolo
Minimum Bid Price : 1,260,000.00

LOT 69 - TOWNHOUSE UNIT
L.A.: 113 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
(Lot 1) No. 1 Antonello Townhomes I, Pasong Balite St., Marulas
Minimum Bid Price : 664,000.00

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 312 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 222 Phase 8, North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 702,000.00

PRIME PROPERTIES

LOT 71 - Land & Building
L.A.: 467 sqm.
8411 Trabajo St. Olympia, Makati City
Minimum Bid Price: 10,745,450.00

LOT 72 - Land & Building
L.A.: 1,696 sqm.
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Army camp is pilot farm for plants for biodiesel

Three kilograms of seeds of the jetropa plant produce a liter of oil

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FARMERS are invited to visit the demonstration farm and convince them to try planting jetropa in abandoned grasslands to increase their earnings.

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—FORT Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, the biggest Army camp in the country, is now site to a pilot farm for the cultivation of biodiesel producing jetropa plants in Central Luzon, including lands covered by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

Jetropa, known as "diesel weeds," grown in the first 30 hectares in the camp seven months ago are now in the flowering stage, according to Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command.

The seeds, which could yield oil, could be harvested after three months, he says.

He projected an income of between P10,000 and P15,000 from every hectare in the first year. Profit could double in every succeeding year, he says, citing industry estimates in India where the plant has become a conventional energy source.

Three kilograms of seeds produce a liter of oil.

Soldiers belonging to the Army's 7th Infantry Division have started preparing the next 90 hectares for a new round of planting. The weeds are known in the country through its local names "tagumbao" and "tuba-tuba."

Fort Magsaysay's role in establishing demonstration farms for jetropa cropped up when President Macapagal-Aroyo, in a visit in this town on Tuesday, asked Tolentino on the status of the project.

He says he told Ms Arroyo that the problem right now was the lack of seedlings. The first supply came free from the Philippine Forest Corp.

"There has been an importation from India but we still need to do a test to make sure those seedlings are not carriers of disease or that these can thrive in our country," Tolentino says.

Farmers are being invited to visit the demonstration farm and convince them to try planting jetropa in abandoned grasslands and other areas to increase their earnings.

The camp, originally 73,000 hectares in 1955, has been reduced to 33,469 hectares. It is 20 km east of Cabanatuan City and 135 km north of Metro Manila.

In the 90-hectare expansion area, Tolentino says less-security risk prisoners or those already close to completing their jail terms would be assigned at the camp as paid laborers.

Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, who attended the meeting with Ms Arroyo here, says the President also encouraged him to try the cultivation of jetropa in lahar areas.

"The President wants us to support the production of bio-fuel to prevent an oil crisis," Lapid told reporters.

He says this might be viable because lands made fertile by volcanic ash, mud and sand now grow bigger root crops. Soil analysis for jetropa planting should be done, though, he says.

Fort Magsaysay, Tolentino says, is able to ensure year-round irrigation through the Cordero dam, which he tapped when he headed the 7th ID until August 2005.

A 3-km pipeline had been fitted from the dam, providing water to a nursery and orchards using the drip irrigation system technology from Israel.

The 1,600-square-meter nursery beside the dam is capable of nurturing 215,600 seedlings that can reforest an area of about 1,000 hectares, according to Tolentino.

The fort has an 11-hectare mango orchard with 1,500 trees and a two-hectare rambutan orchard with 500 trees.

The former parade ground is site to a five-hectare Davao pomelo orchard for 1,000 trees. At least 200 hectares have been planted with ipil-ipil to prepare the site for a coffee plantation.

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Race celebrates centennial

THIS YEAR, NEW BALANCE CELEbrates 100 years of establishing and maintaining a brand platform of providing footwear and active lifestyle.

"As we enter our second century, we will focus on executional excellence in everything we do to achieve our goal of $2 billion in global sales by 2008 and sustainable growth over the long-term. We will continue to develop and introduce leading-edge technologies and innovative fit enhancements in all of our products," says Jim Davis, New Balance chair and CEO.

Its product categories range from cross training, walking, basketball, tennis, netball, soccer, kids, outdoor, to casuals.

After its Run-All-You-Can Party in February this year to kick off its yearlong centennial celebration, New Balance gears up for the 2006 Power Race today.

In partnership with Planet Sports, the New Balance Power Race has been the anchor event since 2002, and considered the only partner race of New Balance International in the Philippines.

For the past four years, New Balance has offered a venue to converge athletes and the general public running groups, in a single event, to test their skills, give their best performance, and build an atmosphere of friendly competition and sportsmanship.

Some 5,000 participants are expected to join this year's race.

The New Balance Power Race, Philippine version, which is one of 50 races to be staged around the world, will give runners the chance to vie for two coveted spots per country to form the 100-member New Balance Global Centennial Team which will be sent to Chicago in October 2006 to run in the La Salle Bank Chicago Marathon.

The runners who joined the promotion submitted a 100-word essay on what New Balance means to them and how it has changed their lives. Winners will be selected based on the impact New Balance has had on their life, creativity of their response and must be registered and ran in one of the 50 Power Races worldwide.

Exclusively distributed by Planet Sports Inc., New Balance is available at Festival Mall, Glorietta, Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot and at leading department stores nationwide.

What to consider in a food franchise

MANY WANT TO GO INTO business but are afraid of the risks involved. Getting a franchise is sometimes a way of lessening the "misses" when going into business.

Franchising involves paying a company for the use of its known name, its formulae and strategies for business, marketing and operations. Owning a franchise also hooks one up with better deals on supplies because the franchise company can do purchases in bulk and pass on the savings to franchise units. As a franchisee one is answerable to the franchiser's marketing direction and only owns the assets purchased to establish the business.

The first major consideration in getting a franchise is cost. To qualify for a franchise, one should have start up capital. The exact costs depend on the franchise you are getting.

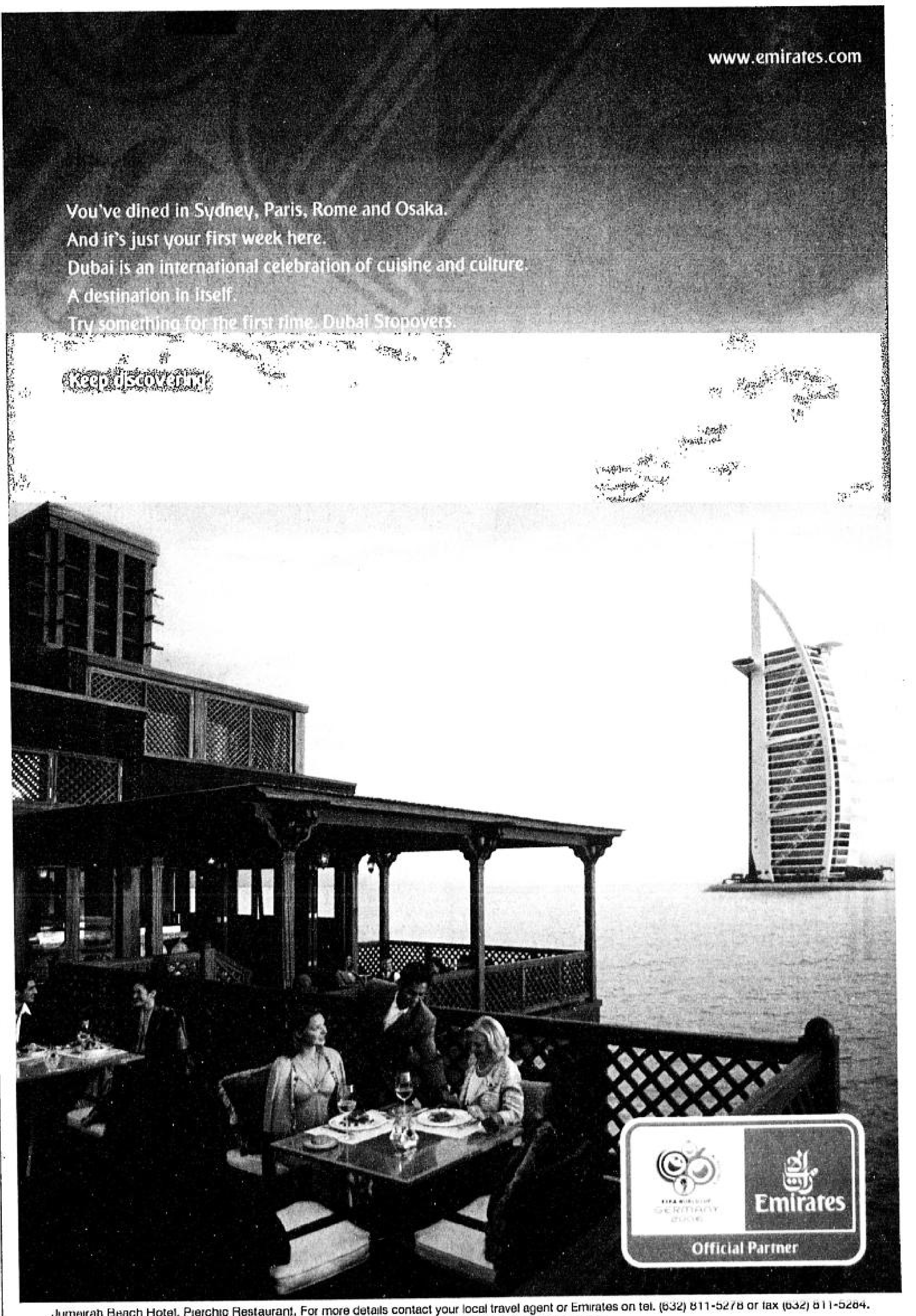
A good franchise provides support in the following areas:

1. Assistance in the search for a good location.
2. A field consultant who visits regularly and gives advise on details.
3. Support in terms of suppliers.
4. A good business plan.
5. A thorough training program.

One should be thorough when reviewing the franchisor's business plan, operations manuals, and market data. When meeting with the franchisor, one should take careful notes of each franchise opportunity, ask questions regarding policies, and have a good feel for other franchisees' level of satisfaction in terms of service.

The franchisee should also take time to study the financial performance of the franchise he is getting and its plans.

Dencio's restaurant is pursuing expansion via franchising. It offers franchise packages from P9 million to P12 million, exclusive of the monthly license fee, which is charged on the net sales of the franchisee to cover royalty fees and the marketing fund contribution. For more information, call Dencio's Foods Specialist Inc. franchise and business development department corporate planning division at 8942000 or visit its website at www.dencios.biz.



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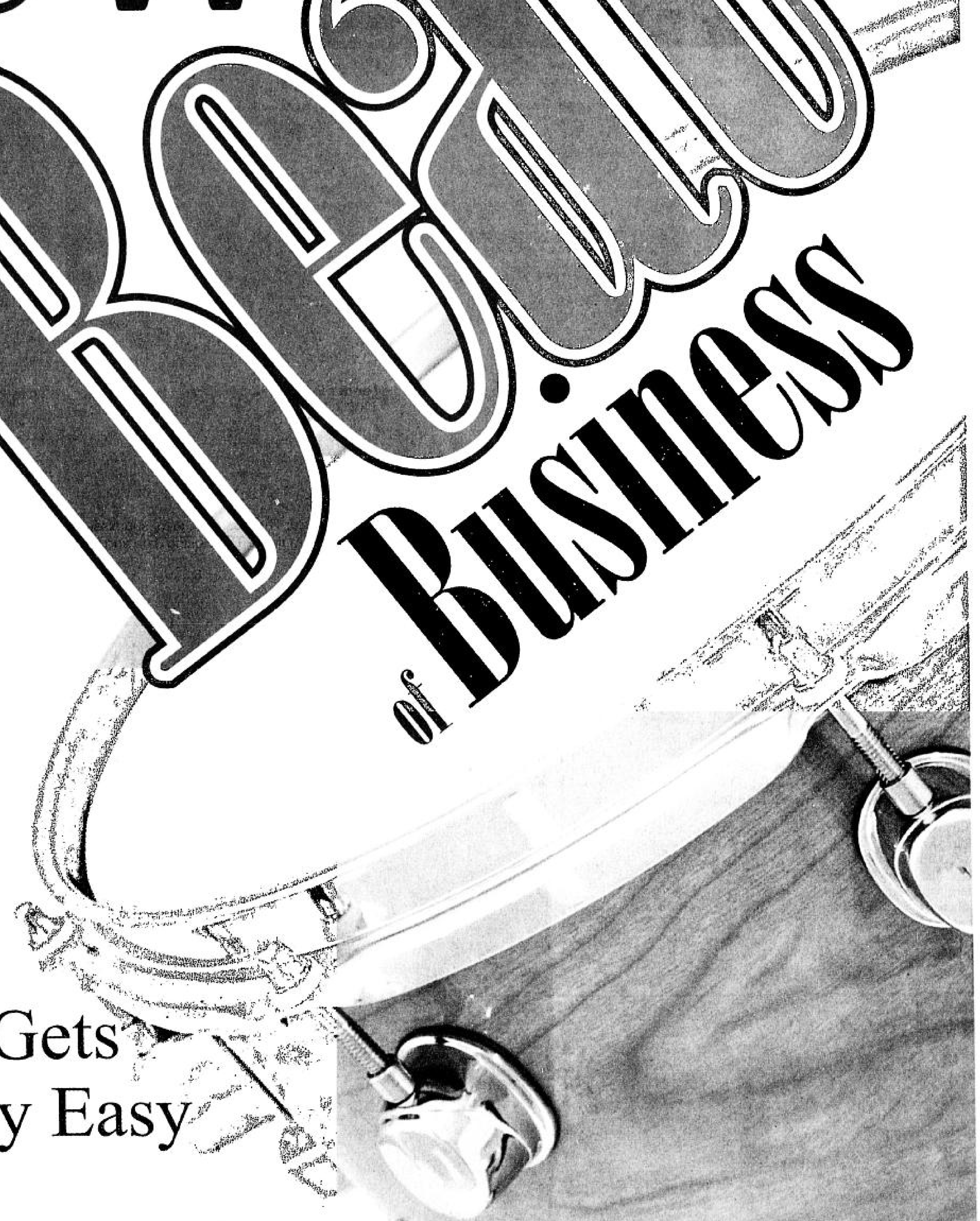
The New Beat of Business



BusinessGets Excitingly Easy

By Billy Bob Tan

Have you heard? Machines can now talk. That is, they can now talk to each other in the language of wireless data that mean profits for your business. This was the news a friend told me in not-so-hushed tones over a casual business lunch, and it's the best news so far if you operate a business like say, retail.

Apparently there are now wireless POS cashier machines that can instantly transmit purchase information made from your remote store straight to your headquarters' servers. Your sales records are then instantaneously updated and can be viewed by you anywhere you are. Who knows? You might be somewhere else doing something else like checking out another branch, or playing golf (I wish).

I asked him how they did it. His answer did less for my curiosity.

"They SWUP'ed it," he said, watching for my predictable response.

"Excuse me, what?" I let him have his fun.

"SWUP is from PLDT and it stands for Shops.Work UnPlugged," he told me as gears started to click. Shops.Work, after all was the interesting way PLDT had set out to aid business operations, especially for SMEs. It improved a business owner's command and control over his organization and now it had gone wireless. Wow.

"There are other goodies of course," my friend interrupted my noontime trance. "There are also wireless card swipe terminals that you can equip your business to instantly accept credit or debit card transactions from anywhere." I thought what this would mean for semi-mobile merchants like repair or delivery services, roving tiangges, and the like. By being able to accept more credit and debit transactions especially from impulse buyers who are famous for using plastic, this could be your store's ultimate power tool.

"That's too cool," I told my friend. I guess secretly, we had been waiting for a day such as this to finally come. "Both owners and customers will be thrilled."

"Absolutely," he started rapping a beat on the table with his knuckles, aspiring drummer that he is. "Business machines will be talking to each other in sort of a Morse Code." His drumming grew faster.

And that code can only spell P-R-O-F-I-T.

SUNDAY, MAY 28,

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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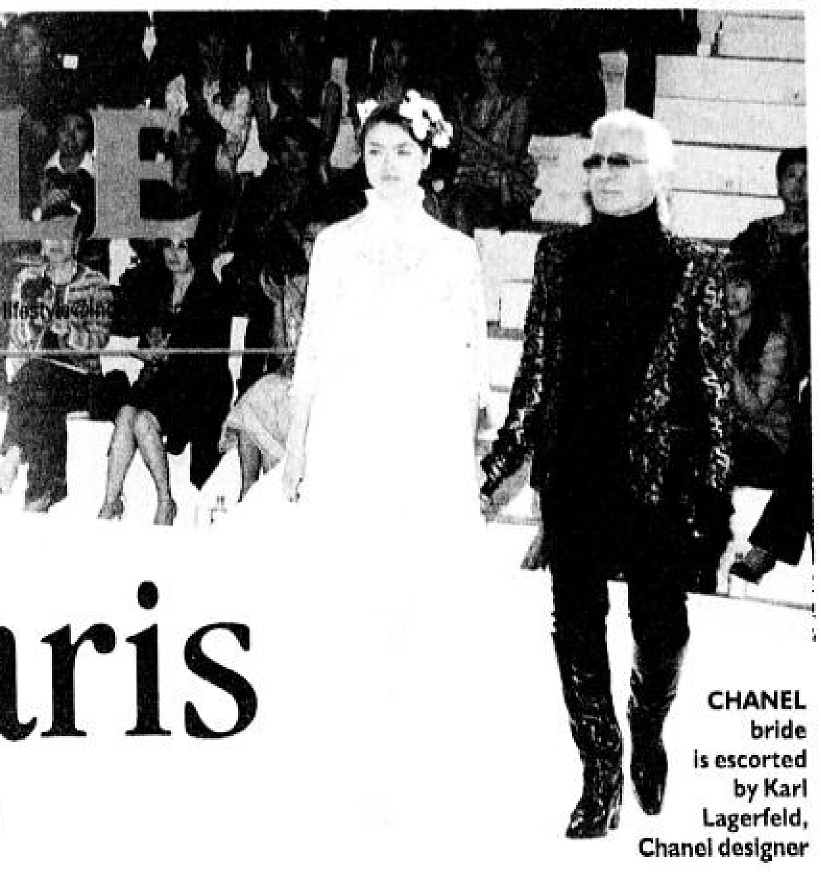
COUTURE, like Chanel's, will never disappear, according to French fashion leaders.



CHANEL bride is escorted by Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel designer

Asia gets a taste of Paris haute couture

Chanel brings the legendary house's pieces to Hong Kong, where the region's jet-setters bask in the romance of couture

By Kitty Go
Contributor

PARIS HAUTE COUTURE IS shown only in Paris. But Chanel has shown its couture pieces all over the world, from Delhi to South America. They also make regular ready-to-wear presentations in key international cities (in Asia, after Japan, Chanel rotates couture around its three largest markets—Shanghai, Taiwan and Hong Kong).

Recently, Chanel recreated its Spring Summer 2006 couture show in Hong Kong. At the new and high-tech sound stage of Shaw Studios in Tseun Wan O, Chanel rebuilt the Grand Palais: the central spiral staircase and circular coliseum with an all-white seating area for 888 guests (the luckiest number in Hong Kong).

Everything came as it was in Paris—from the giveaways to the presence of Karl Lagerfeld. Key Chanel couture staff and atelier ladies came for four days of fittings at the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong.

INQUIRER had the rare chance to interview Chanel president Françoise Montenay, external relations head Marie-Louise de Clermont Tonnerre (Chanel's longest-serving employee, having started in her 20s when Coco Chanel died), and the Kaiser himself, Karl Lagerfeld.

What is the price of true exclusivity?

In 1939, a total of 4,000 people were employed by the couture industry. Since Yves Saint Laurent closed his couture house in 2002, talk has been raging in fashion circles that the couture will soon die. However, for Montenay, couture today remains vibrant and is growing!

"Couture will never disappear," says the former Mobil Oil and Jean Patou executive amid the ready-to-wear collections in Chanel's new China flagship at the Prince's Building in Central. "We have so many new customers and once they step into couture, they will not quit couture," Montenay says. "They may find another brand. But they will not quit."

Bruno Pavolovsky, Chanel's president of fashion, says couture is very intimate. The house one chooses to go to really reflect a client's style. Both executives say that Dior customers hardly ever go to Chanel and vice versa.

Meanwhile, Montenay relates the aftermath of YSL's closing. "All the customers who have a certain style remain with a designer who caters to this style. When YSL stopped, we got a lot of YSL customers. He has a reputation for suits and so do we. So they came to us but our suits were more supple, less constructed and they wanted something stiffer. So we lost some clients to other brands."

To the unseasoned, couture is all about wedding gowns and big evening dresses. But the true couture customer is one who wears it

ASIA/ C2

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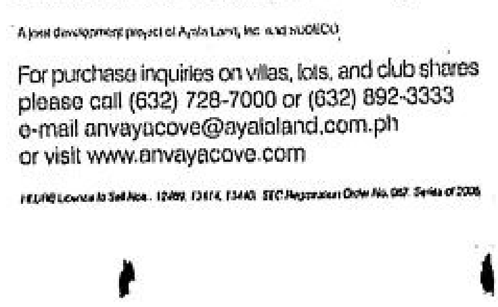

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INTIMATE FASHION. Haute couture, like Chanel's, seeks to suit the individual styles of different clients.

Asia gets a taste of Paris haute couture

From page C1

day and night. It usually begins when a mother loves and wears couture. She takes her daughter either for a debutante or wedding gown. However, the mother, being more experienced and sophisticated, probably already wears couture suits and day dresses. At a starting price of 35,000 euros, a couture dress is far from the credit-card expenses mothers and daughters run up at shopping malls!

The bad part may be the price but at that level of wealth, social circles get extremely tiny. Thus, the good part is that each client is guaranteed that no other person has the same outfit as her.

"We are very careful. It is very surprising because in couture, every outfit is sold once and never repeated worldwide. If two customers want the exact same model, we have to tell the first person where the second person lives. We will never have the same model in the US," says Montenay.

"Couture" must be the most abused word in the language of fashion. Countless designers attach "couture" to their brands and even more consider couture anything made-to-order. Because of price, couture remains unaffected by the fluctuations of economies. It is also beyond the latest "must-have" as no one else will have whatever you have. On top of all that is the couture experience, which is a galaxy away from even the plushest dressing room at Bergdorf's.

Couture reality a dream

Marie-Louise de Clermont Tonnerre was everything I expected from a Chanel executive—coiffed, ultra-chic and clad in couture. A woman at ease living with, and wearing, couture every day, she showed up for lunch at the Landmark Mandarin's Amber in a pink tweed couture suit with a scooped boat neckline and three-fourths length sleeves. Even her tiny snakeskin quilted bag was couture and it was better organized than my gigantic bespoke Anya Hindmarch Ledbury tote.

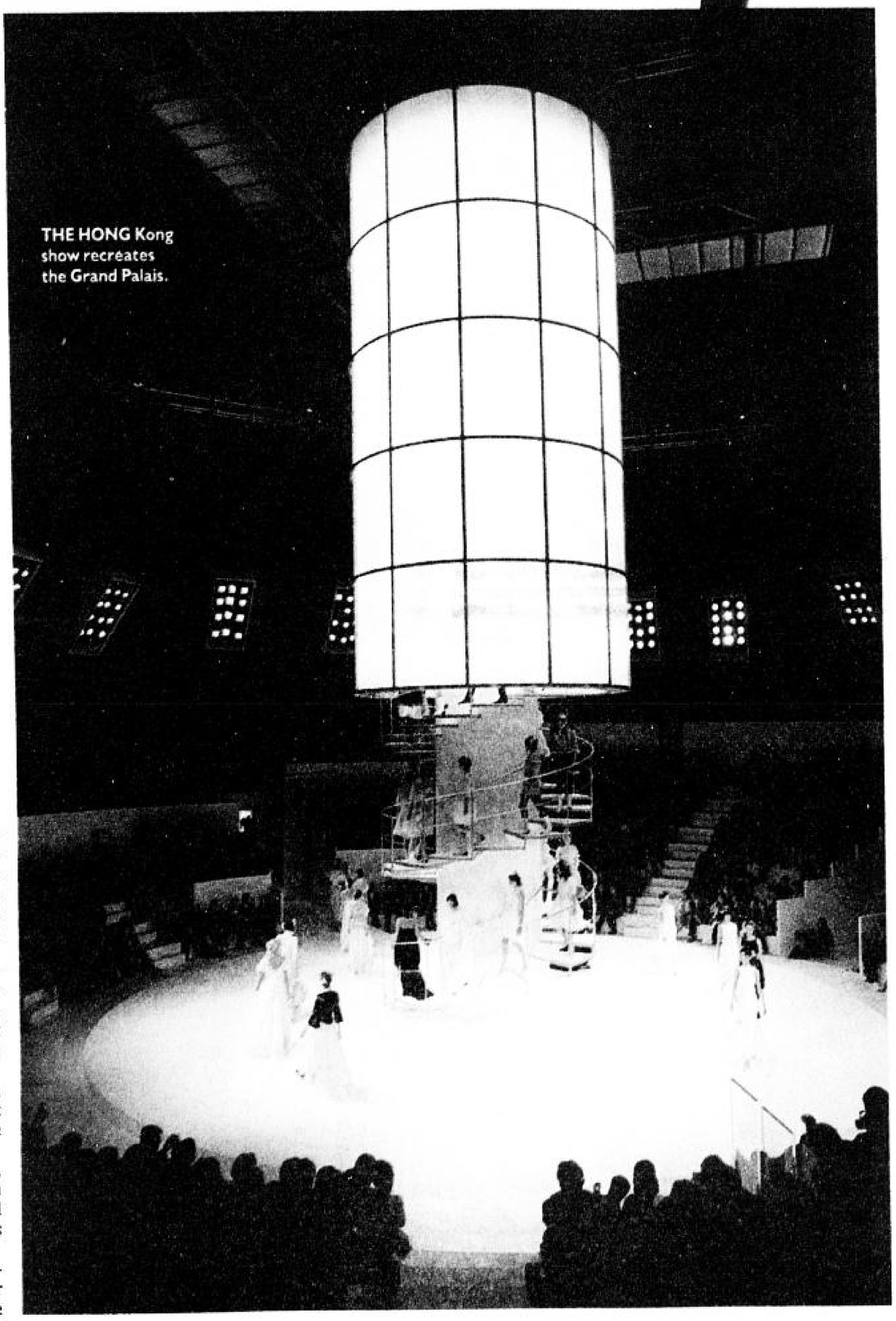
Aside from its unmatched quality and exclusivity, a couture dress, whether for day or evening, is marked by the presence of an inner corset or some kind of boning to support the torso. On sight, very often, one cannot tell whether an outfit is from couture or not.

"It's when you wear it," explains Tonnerre, "And knowing that it is made for you makes it a unique thing. No woman will have the same. This is couture, this is mine."

Because of the new multitasking clients, couture dresses now face the challenge of a fast-paced life. Both suits and dresses sell equally well but contemporary couture stands out in the way the clothes perform.

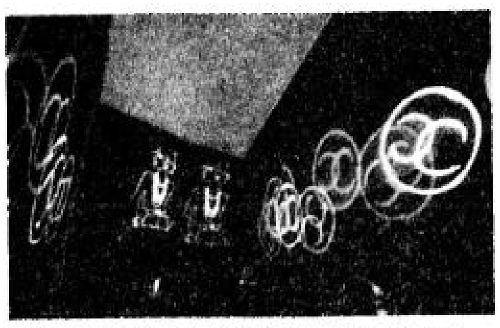
Tonnerre says, "I have personally experimented with this—although it is not new. Our cocktail dress, whether long or short, can be put into a bag and after a 12-hour flight, it emerges without a wrinkle. You don't have to iron it. That's couture."

Couture is an experience unknown to most of the world and it is only by living it that one will understand it. When one experiences couture, even the most expensive ready-to-wear becomes a mere alteration. For those with more time on their hands (or celebrities hawking their new films), couture begins with attending the shows. Regular clients who already have existing dress forms sometimes go through videos, DVDs or look books that are sent to them.



THE HONG Kong show recreates the Grand Palais.

CHANEL makeup for models



THE FAMOUS logo is flashed at the Hong Kong event.

BACKSTAGE flurry

The Hong Kong experience was very similar to getting fitted in Paris. Chanel boutiques in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Korea invited their biggest customers hoping that some will become first-time couture customers. The four days of fittings were packed.

Normally, two hours are allotted for every client. It is at this time they view the line again, try on clothes or have a model put it on for them to look at because, chances are, they will not be able to get into the clothes because they are so small! I tried on a pair of pants and they fit... my arms!

For their Hong Kong fitting, Chanel brought Virginie Lauble, manager of the couture department, two sales ladies, three heads of workrooms—two from the *atelier tallieur* for suits and one from *atelier flou* for dresses and gossamer gowns. Because couture customers are the ultimate jet-setters, later fittings can be done anywhere in the world.

Chanel owns and runs the most important couture workrooms in Paris not just for themselves but the entire industry. In the last 20 years, the company has acquired ailing *métiers* (crafts) to keep their skills alive—among them are shoe- and boot-makers Massaro (starting price: 4,000 euros), Lesage embroiderers, Lemarie for flowers and feathers, and Michele millinery.

"We have about 150 workers in over three workrooms and cannot be compared to any other house because we have the clientele for that," says Tonnerre. "They work not only for us and are not to be limited to the Chanel way. The staff that work for Chanel do not work for Lacroix so we don't know what other companies are doing. If they work with Galliano, they don't work with Karl."

Making the impossible yours

There is nothing average about couture. From the service, the workmanship, the cost and the materials—everything is perfect.

"Couture is what is impossible!" says Tonnerre. There is no average customer either, whether in age (there have been clients as young as three years old) or lifestyle. Thirty years ago, men paid for most women's bills. In the last 10 years, many of couture's top clients are single women paying their own bills for *haute couture* and *haute joaillerie*.

LAGERFELD

THE KAISER SPEAKS

'Couture is a healthy way to spend money'

CHANEL COUTURE IS WHERE Karl Lagerfeld unleashes his creativity. It is here that he is not restricted by styles, cuts, embroidery, fabrics and most of all, prices.

For a creator, this is a dream come true. For a designer at the helm of an 80-year house that has still not lost its edge, it is a challenge. Below, excerpts from a post-show interview with Karl Lagerfeld whose last visit to Hong Kong was in 1998.

Do you think showing couture today before so many people, like the 888 guests tonight, defeats the intimacy of couture?

No, because if not, 880 people will never see the couture. What's the use of showing this to 50 to 100 people? This is the modern way to experience the couture. It is not just to be worn but to be watched. It's like a show.

Why did you decide to come to Hong Kong?

I am really here to do the advertising campaign for Chanel. Normally I never show up for a show that I have done before, but since I was going to be in this city, there was no reason not to do it... Our last advertising campaign was shot in LA, another in New York and before that in Paris. I wanted another mega-city and I thought it would be nice to come to this part of the world and Hong Kong was my choice!

What do you think of Armani showing Prive in HK this week? *(The following week, Giorgio Armani was in Hong Kong to show his bespoke Prive line. Armani is a guest but not a member of the couture federation.)*

I don't know about his couture or if he is original like Dior or Chanel. It's okay with me. There is room for everything if people want to buy. It is up to them to make the decision. Chanel is getting bigger so... I can only speak for Chanel.

I don't know what is happening in other couture houses... There is always a place for somebody new, somebody different, why not Armani? If people like what he does, there is no reason he cannot sell his couture!

Couture is getting more and more expensive because of salaries and taxes. In the past, it was more like today's expensive ready-to-wear. It is really, really expensive but there are so many new rich people making new fortunes who want to dress in a certain way no one else can dress. It's a pleasure to be dressed by the couture and it is a healthy way to spend money because a lot of people make a living from it like the embroiderers, the sewers. Whenever I buy more clothes than I need, I am supporting people who make a living by making and designing clothes.

Did Chanel stage the couture here in Hong Kong for image-building as Madame Montenay claims or to attract a new market?

I don't want to know anything about it! I am here to design what I want and not look for new clients and try to flatter them. I prefer not to know. It is a proposition. It is up to them to make their choice.

(Lagerfeld has always said that his shows are for people to choose pieces from to create their own styles.)

Kitty Go

THE AUTHOR with Lagerfeld

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Awards 2005

FRANCHISE Excellence Awards 2005 group winners. First row: Lin Deres, franchising director, Goldilocks; Jose Maria Grau Jr., franchise and operations VP, Netopia Internet Café; Bernadette Lee, managing director, Pancake House; Franklin Go, store operations director, Goldilocks; Trade Secretary Peter Favila; Pinky Estrebillo, general manager, Bayo; Ted Ilano, business and franchise development manager, Greenwich; Gina Navarette, general manager, Greenwich; Florethel Hawak, franchisee, Julie's Franchise Corp.; Catherine Nisce and Reynaldo Nisce, franchisee, Mr. Quickie Corp.
Second row: Ricardo Andres, president, Candy Corner; Daniel Jose Jr., admin and finance VP, Brother's Burger; Jose Antonio Soler, president, Crystal Clear; Robert Trota, president, PFA & Max's Restaurant; Bing Limjoco, PFA chair; Ella Calaor-Oplas, senior project assistant, Cida Pearl2 Project; Joe Goodings, Second Secretary, Canadian Embassy; Samie Lim, PFA chair emeritus; Mildred Ramos, partner, SGV & Co./FEA 2005 chair; Gail Santos, franchisee, Max's Restaurant; Jose Pardo, PFA founding chair; Ronald Pineda, president and CEO, Folded & Hung; Bobby Gandionco, chair, and Virgilio Espeleta, president, Julie's Franchise.

Awards for franchise leaders

THE PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (PFA) recently announced the winners of the 2005 Franchise Excellence Awards at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

The annual search is spearheaded by the PFA in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA).

Trophies were handed out to winners of the following categories: Most Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year, Most Promising Filipino Franchise of the Year, Franchise Marketing Campaign of the Year and Franchisee of the Year.

Two companies were elevated to the Hall of Fame for winning the Outstanding Award the second time around. Special Citations and The Chairman's Awards were also given out to members and institutions who made inroads and contributions that led to the growth of the franchise sector in the country.

This year's search was headed by Mildred M. Ramos of SGV & Co. with the following Board of Judges: professor Jose M. Faustino, Asian Institute of Management; Mars Chua, PRA president; Bing Limjoco, representing Ambassador Donald Dee of PCCI; Federico Gonzales, Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship; Erlinda de Guzman, Galing Pilipino Movement; Manuel Siggaoat, PFA; and Luna David, DTI-Small Business Corporation.

The pre-screening committee was composed of Jerry Clavesillas, BSMED; Carmen Peralta, Intellectual Property Office; Bing Limjoco, PFA; lawyer Ferdinand Negre, Bengzon, Negre and Untalan Law Offices; and Margarita Martinez, AC Nielsen.

On hand to greet the guests were the PFA board of trustees and officers, including Samie Lim, Bing Sibal-Limjoco, Robert F. Trota, Manny M. Siggaoat, Yvette P. Orbeta, Les Reyes, Joe Magsaysay Jr.

Golden Arches chair George Yang, whose McDonald's Philippines is a Hall of Fame awardee, sang "This is the Moment," his way of honoring his year's roster of winners.

Guests and supporters from the government and business community who were present included Trade Secretary Peter Favila; The Chairman's awardee Sen. Mar Roxas; Foreign Affair Undersecretary Edsel Custodio; Trade Undersecretary for SMED Mel Alonzo; Presidential Center for Entrepreneurship head Joey Concepcion III; Ambassador Donald Dee; Serge Ortiz-Luis; lawyer Miguel Varela; Science Assistant Secretary Malu Orijola; Emma Leister of the British Embassy Manila; Joe Goodings, Second Secretary for Development, Canadian Embassy; Ela Calaor-Oplas, CIDA Pearl2; Judy R. Reinke, Counselor of the US Embassy for Commercial Affairs; PRA president Mars Chua, among others.

Back-to-school shoes, bags fair

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR OPENS AND Robinsons Department Store (RDS) helps ease shopping blues with discounts, prizes and surprises with its "Shoes and Bags Fair" until May 31.

RDS carries character shoes from Fisher-Price, Barbie, Hotwheels or Winx while Skechers rubber shoes are suitable wear in and out of the gym. Also available are mules, mary janes, slip-ons, ballet flats and wedges by Zanea and Jazz.

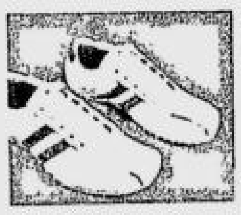
For dressy affairs or special school events, there are the black pumps and leather loafers by Mario D'boro.

Charming trolley bags from U2M will make going around campus with books and notebooks easier. More hot picks include leather handbags and shoulder bags by Secosana, Cosé, Jaygee and Crisan. Hawk and Urban Gear backpacks and messenger bags with roomy pockets for books, lunch and other school supplies are practical accessories.

Students who are moving from home to dorm can pick out what is most suitable to their needs from the luggage collection of Holiday and British Knight.

RDS offers not only a 50-percent discount on selected items, but also exciting prizes. Every P500 worth of purchase (single or accumulated receipts) from RDS' Shoes and Bags Department until May 31, can win up to P15,000 worth of gift certificates. Over P300,000 worth of GCs are at stake in two raffle draws per branch.

RDS branches are in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang and Nepo Mall Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph



SKECHERS men's rubber shoes

SPONGEBOB SquarePants boys' leather shoes

GIRL'S backpack by Cutie

Fashion show for all ages

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA AND TRUMPETS Playshop present "Life to the Max" featuring collections of Shang's boutiques for kids, teens and adults at 4 p.m., May 28, at the Shang's Grand Atrium.

The event showcases creations for kids from Big & Small Co., Gingersnaps, Osh Kosh B'gosh and Spin. It will also feature teen outfits from Just G, Levi's, Plains & Prints, Naf Naf, Indonesian brand (X)SML and Australian Purr by The Ramp at Crossings.

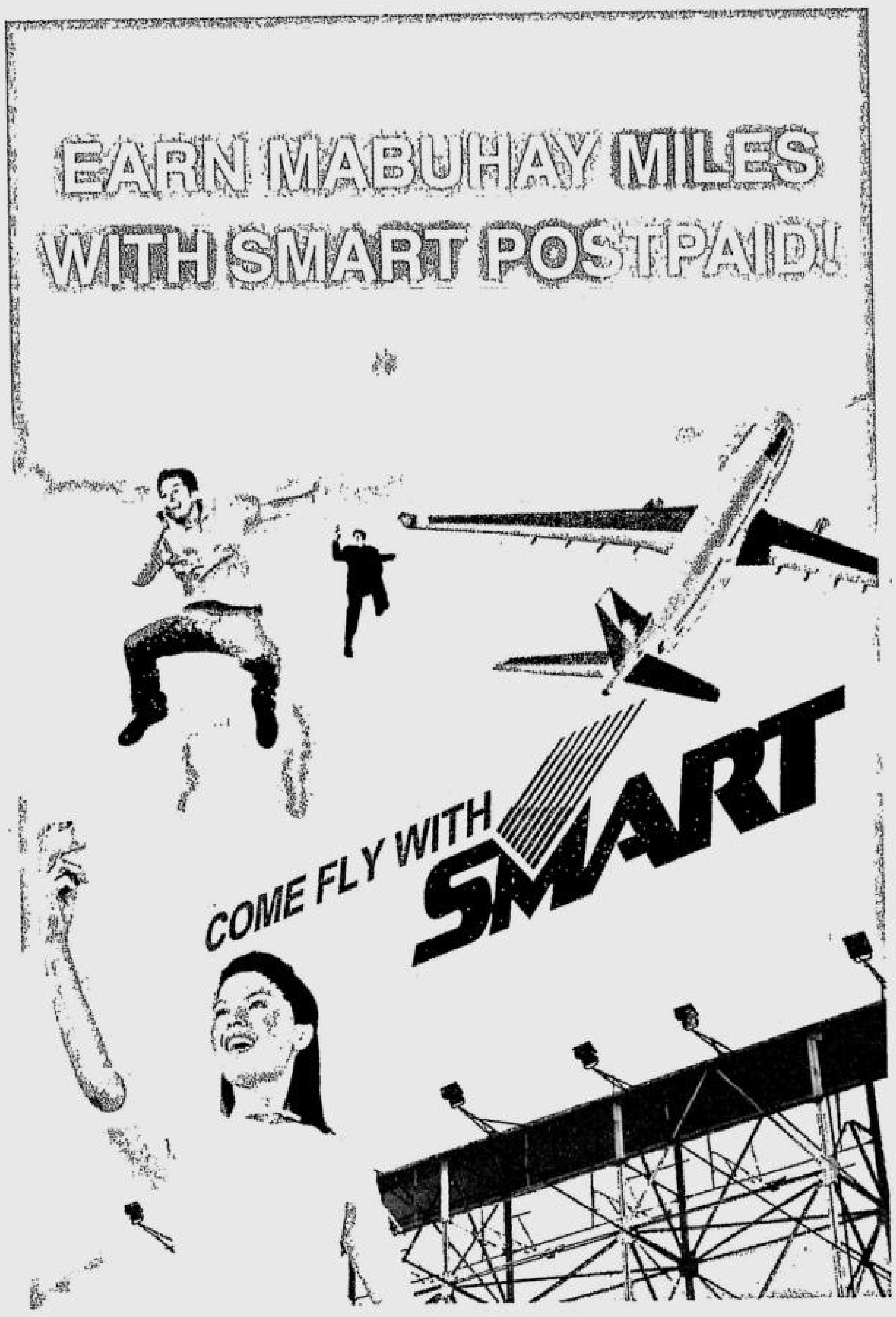
For adults, the show offers wardrobes from the United Kingdom's Wallis and K & Company. Expectant mothers can see the latest from Havin' A Baby and Gingersnaps.

Other featured labels include Fino for bags, Celine for shoes, Pink Box and Le Mimi for accessories, and makeup by Rustan's SugarBaby.

Students of Trumpets Modeling Class of 2006 will be featured in a fashion show under the direction of Jackie Aquino.

Trumpets Playshop and Musicademy is at 5/L, Shangri-La Plaza.

Admission to the fashion show is free. Call at 6337851 to 70.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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2157 and 2161 Series of 2006

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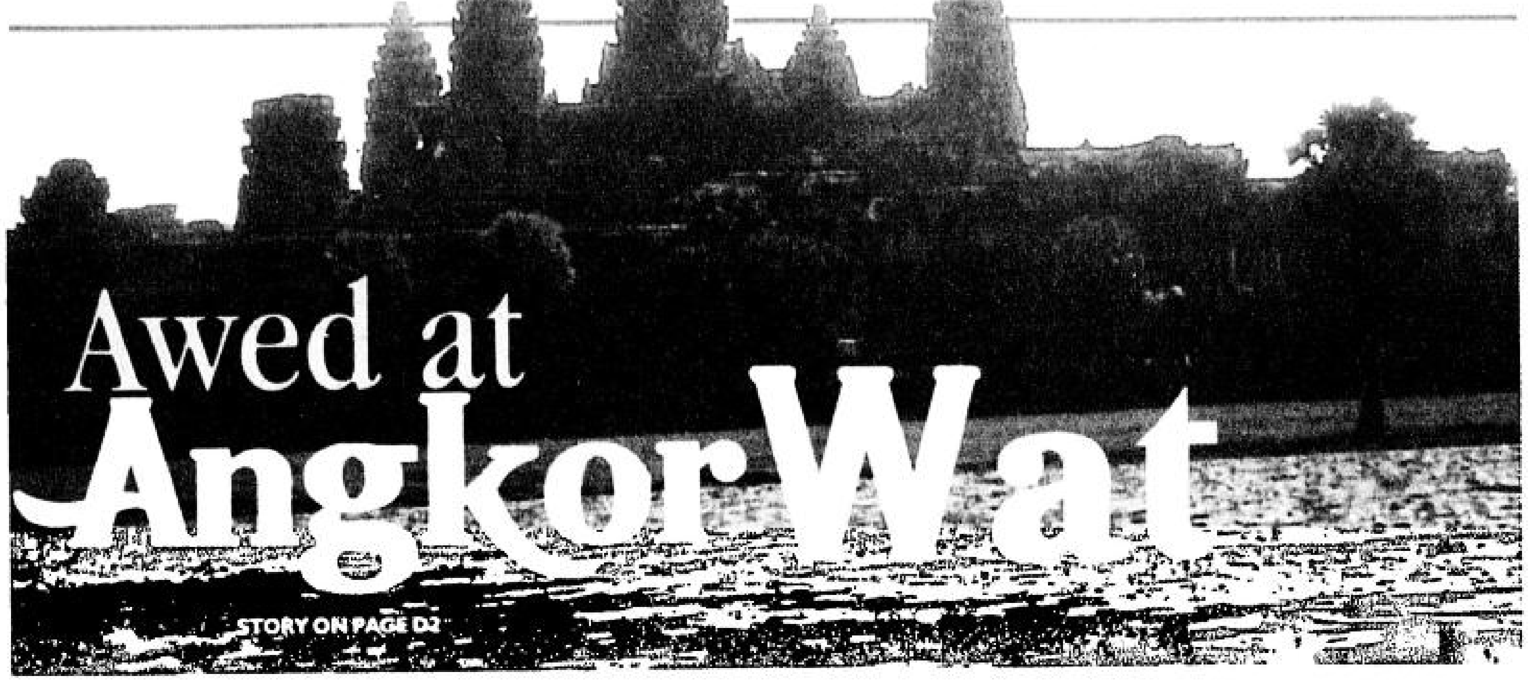

Awed at Angkor Wat

STORY ON PAGE D2

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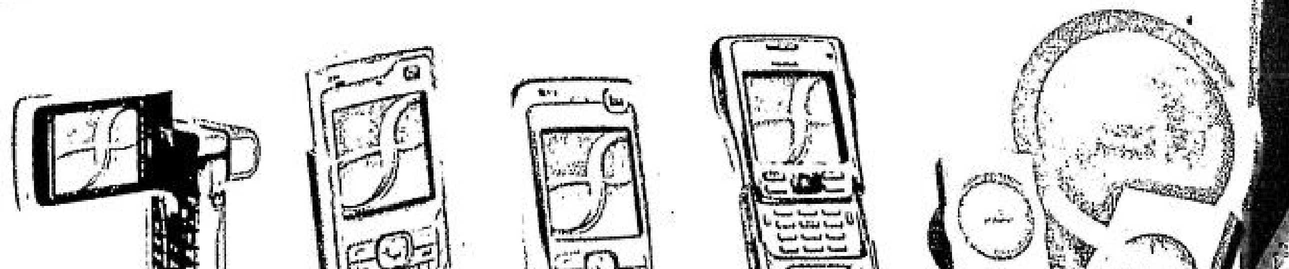

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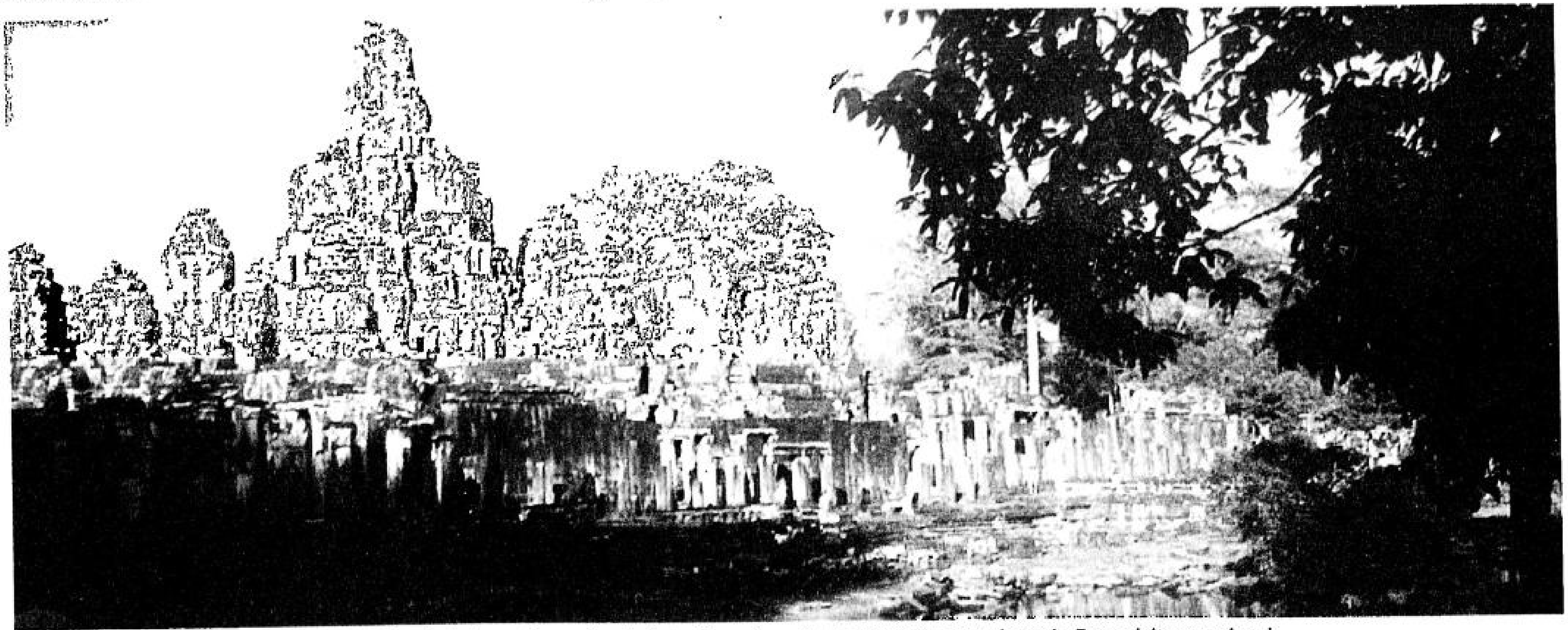
The Cambodian landmark relives the glory of the greatest Southeast Asian empire in history



ANGKOR Thom, the old capital and a moated royal city, is another major site just as imposing as Angkor Wat. The central temple, Bayon, is its crown jewel.

Awed at Angkor Wat

By Carmita Francisco
Contributor

DURING THE NINTH TO THE 15TH century, the Angkor Empire was the greatest civilization in Southeast Asia, reaching from the coast of Vietnam to Myanmar and down to the Malay Peninsula. Brought up with a heavy dose of American and European history, I was particularly impressed that the mother lode of my Malay race was such a distinguished and accomplished civilization. At the heart of this great kingdom—allegedly ruled by god-kings—are the magnificent towers of Angkor Wat and the nearby capital city of Angkor Thom.

Approaching the causeway to this magnificent edifice, one catches one's breath—that same awesome feeling one gets upon seeing the pyramids of Egypt or the Taj Majal for the first time.

The small provincial town of Siem Reap in Cambodia serves as the gateway to the millennium-old temple ruins—also known as the Khmer Empire.

Designated a World Heritage Site by Unesco, the Archeological Park encompasses dozens of temple ruins. They say the area it covers is as large as Los Angeles and that there are more ruins that have to be discovered in the surrounding jungles.

In "Tomb Raider," the Angelina Jolie character picks a jasmine flower near a massive stone doorway intertwined with a huge banyan tree. Actually, the place is a major site to visit in Angkor Wat—it's the Ta Prom.

This quiet sprawling monastic complex is only partially cleared of jungle overgrowth, which has been deliberately left unrestored by authorities, with massive fig and silk cotton and banyan trees growing dramatically from the towers and corridors offering some of the best tree-in-temple photo opportunities.

Jackie Kennedy, recently widowed, also visited with Lord Harlech when Cambodia was politically embroiled, and I can just imagine her clutching on to his arm as she saw Angkor Wat from its causeway, wending her way through the uneven flagstones.

Breathtaking

Angkor Wat is visually, architecturally and artistically breathtaking. It is a massive three-tiered pyramid crowned by five beehives—like towers rising some 65 meters from the ground.

King Suryavarman II constructed Angkor Wat in the form of a massive temple-mountain dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu in the mid-12th century.

Surrounded by an immense moat and an exterior wall measuring 1,300 m by 1,500 m, the temple itself is 1 km square and consists of three levels.

The walls of the temple are covered inside and out with bas reliefs and carvings. Archeologists counted as much as 2,000 distinctly rendered "apsara" (*diwata*-like ladies) adorning the walls.

The visual impact of Angkor Wat is awesome. As you pass through the outer gate and get your first glimpse, its size and architecture make it appear two-dimensional like a giant postcard against the sky. Then when you cross over and approach the temple along the walkway, it slowly gains depth and complexity.

The morning is not a good time to take photos unfortunately, so just concentrate on what the guide will tell you and marvel at the bas reliefs throughout.

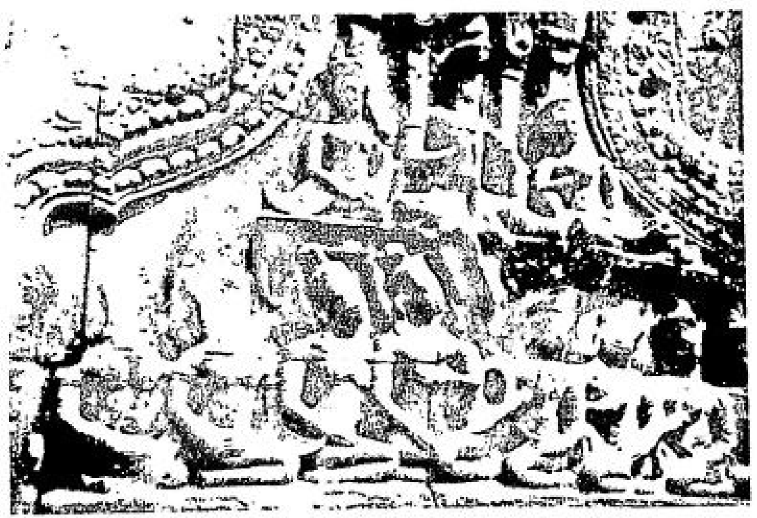
The high point of the visit is the central tower that is really steep to climb up; only the brave and nimble venture up those steep steps. I am proud to say that I did make the climb, but I freaked out when I looked down. Up there you get a sweeping view of the whole complex.

There are four Buddhas that face the four cardinal points and your acknowledging all four of them is supposed to give you good luck. Coming down the steps was made easier by handrails on one side and the encouraging cheers of everybody venturing down shouts of "you can do it."

The whole morning is usually taken up by the visit to this major temple. I strongly suggest you go back to your hotel, swim or dunk yourself in the pool and have a sandwich before venturing out to the afternoon's excursion to two other major temples.

TYPICAL Buddha head in one of the 40 towers at Bayon

PHNOM Penh's Royal Palace is even more imposing than Bangkok's. It draws fewer tourists, so one can enjoy looking at the etched artwork's detailing at leisure.



DETAILS of wall carvings in all the temples, especially in Angkor Wat, are so intricate you can almost see these *apsaras* (*diwata*-like ladies) come alive to dance.

THE AUTHOR (right) with sister, artist Bubut Dichupa

The ride to the next temple is a good 20 minutes from town. Ta Prom, as I mentioned earlier, is totally different because the strong fusion of nature and stone structures gives it a character unlike any other temple ruin I have ever visited.

Enchanting

It is just so enchanting. It is said that this temple was dedicated to Jayavarman's father. It was a Buddhist monastery and was very wealthy during its prime with over 3,000 villages under its control, bestowing riches in gold and jewels.

Ta Prom is also the most photogenic and everybody poses beside the "Angelina tree." She must have seen Maddox here, the boy she adopted, because there were a lot of Cambodian boys selling trinkets at the entrance.

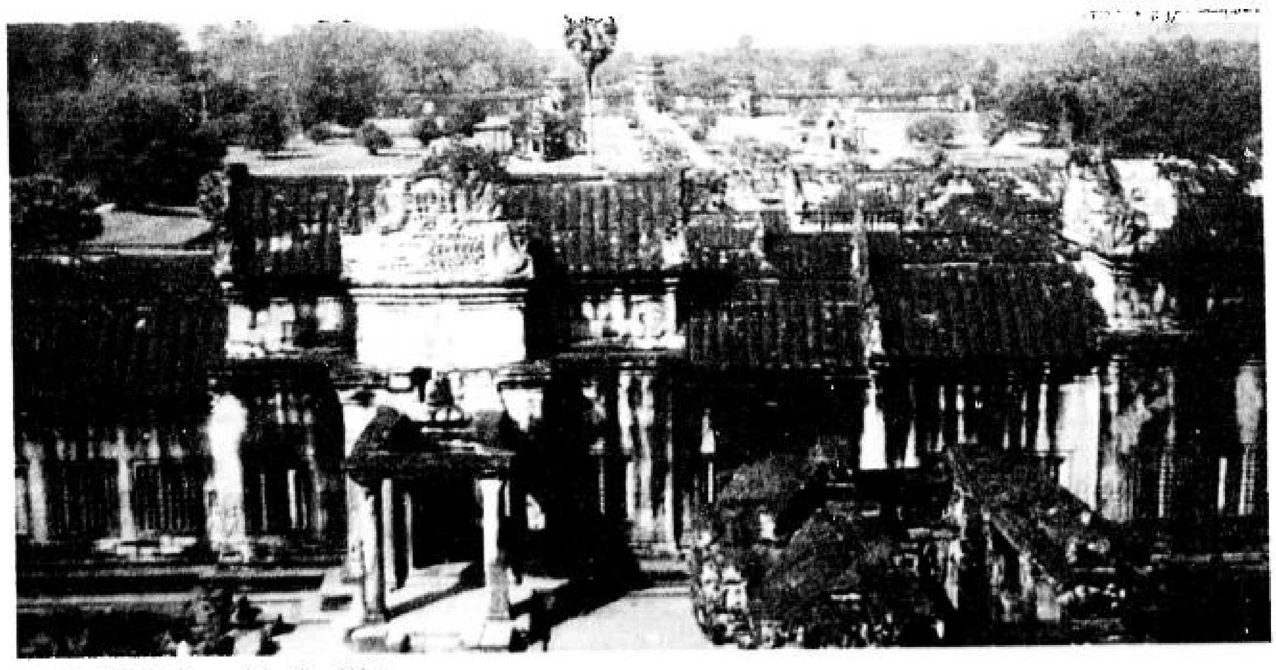
The old capital Angkor Thom has a dramatic entrance flanked by full-size head images similar to the sphinxes lining the Karnak temple in Luxor. One side represents the good people and the other side the evil people playing out the good versus the bad dramatically. Both images hold on to a *naga* or snake.

The 3-km walled and moated royal city was built after Angkor Wat in the early 13th century and was the last capital of the Angkorian empire.

Bayon, at the center of this city, is the crown jewel. There are 37 standing towers most of which have four faces of Buddha carved on them.

The giant stone faces of Bayon epitomize the massive building skills of the Khmer empire. A touch of whimsy has been discovered by tourists. You can have your photo taken as if you are nose to nose with a Buddha in the horizon. Great fun!

Also in this complex is the fabulous Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Intricately carved elephants and giant garudas adorn the wall. By the time you see these elephants, you want a break and happily there are stands selling the sweetest pineapples on a stick which hit the spot.



COURTYARD view of Angkor Wat

Sunset-watching

Seeing the elephants is also a good intro to your visit to the next temple which is Bakong Hill to watch the sunset.

You can get a $10 elephant ride to the top of the hill but, that afternoon, all elephants were booked so we had to go up via the elephant path. When two elephants are walking into each other—one going downhill and the other going uphill, you better stick close to the wall and hold your breath as the elephant trunks come swinging close to you. Up close they don't look that dumb to me.

There is a scramble every afternoon before 6 p.m. to watch the sunset from this high point which oversees a jungle and Angkor Wat in the horizon.

It was hazy that day and, frankly, I've seen better sunsets in our Batangas beaches, so we opted to beat the crowd going down a stony hill in droves (another "Amazing Race" episode)—and made it back to Angkor Wat to take photos beside the reflecting pools. Temple overload? Not really, because all four temples were truly different in architecture, in feel, offering impressive glimpses of that glorious era.

The next day we opted to watch the sunrise at 5 a.m. but was rained out. So we took the balloon to watch the sunset. This was not a hot air balloon ride, just a giant balloon tethered to a mooring that brought you up like a Disney ride. But in the horizon Angkor Wat was bathed in glorious sunset colors. That image has stayed in my mind.

Siem Reap, where Angkor Wat and the other temples are located, is a provincial town with many hotels of all categories.

There is an Amman hotel, a Grand Raffles, Pansea, Sofitel and Le Meridien within sprawling grounds, and the charming Victoria Angkor.

A sleek modern Hotel de la Paix is an oasis in the center of town.

For good value, there is the four-star Prince D'Angkor Hotel which has comfortable rooms and a big pool area. An added plus is the bountiful buffet breakfast of continental and Asian selections.

If you are not in a package tour with a one-day temple tour included, you have to pay $20 for a day-long visit and $40 for a three-day visit. You can go around town in taxis and the ubiquitous *tuk tuk* which is a better-built version of our tricycle. You can hire one for around $8-$10 a day.

Incidentally, you can pay everything in US dollars. I never even saw the Rialles, since the dollar economy brought about by the two million tourists that come to Siem Reap make it a dollar economy.

Delicious food

Cambodian food is not as hot or spice-laden as Thai food. Their national dish is a flavorful chicken amok served in a *buko*—quite delicious.

The FCC Club or Foreign Correspondents Club is a good place to have meals in, although there are restaurants in the national road leading to the temple that have good Asian selections.

Shopping in markets like the old and new market and the central market offers Cambodian silk which has a wonderful sheen and other made-in-Cambodia crafts.

The Artisans Village is a good place to visit because you see that they are harnessing the traditional crafts into marketable items which are packaged in a very pretty and innovative way.

One of the best buys is the *kramen*, a piece of finely woven silk cotton that can double up as a scarf. If you bargain, you may get it for 50 cents.

Other buys are silver and stones mined in Cambodia like rubies and sapphires. But I guess you have to know how to spot a good one. I don't think they were cut well.

Phnom Penh is the capital and the royal palace and national museum are worth a day's visit. It is 40 minutes away by plane—and $70.

Again the FCC club was a wonderful place to have meals. The shopping is also slightly cheaper.

A big surprise is Cambodian rice which is even better than Thai's jasmine rice. Makes you forget you have to go on a good carb diet.

But while on a trip, the cardinal rule should be to "seize the moment" carpe diem and imbibe the culture of the people. In this case, your pride at being part of the Malay race gives you an added adrenaline high.

The Aetas' 'Apo Apang'

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE discovered by Spanish, the Aetas were already venerating the image of Ina Poon Bato. To this day they call her Apo Apang or "Little Queen."

I found out about Ina Poon Bato when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991 and the front page of newspapers carried photos of the Virgin buried deep in mud in the Pastac River in Botolan, Zambales, where her shrine is located.

I later met Rosellyn Enciso-Magsaysay who developed a deep devotion to Apo Apang after the late Mother Therese of the Holy Face of Jesus Community in Quiapo brought the image of the Virgin to the Magsaysay residence in Castillejos, Zambales.

The image was sculpted by Maximo Vicente, a famous sculptor of holy images and father of Mother Therese. She told Rosellyn the Blessed Mother wanted her to propagate devotion to the Ina Poon Bato not only in Zambales, but in the world.

Mother Therese later found out that the image was copied from a statue Fr. Patrick Duggan, then parish priest of Botolan borrowed from the Aglipayan Church, which also venerates the Virgin.

It was a strange message to Rosellyn, a convert to Catholicism being married to Vic Magsaysay. It was also a challenge as Rosellyn didn't even know how to say the Rosary very well.

The demand from Apo Apang took Rosellyn on a 25-year journey of faith and trust. Today, there is an inter-faith village in the Loob-Bunga resettlement in Botolan. Masses are said on the feast day of the Virgin every Jan. 24.

In fulfillment of Ina's wishes, Rosellyn brought a small image to Rome as a gift to Pope John Paul II on his seventh anniversary as Pope in 1985. Archbishop Panciano Aniceto headed the Philippine delegation that included Mother Therese. Many years before her death, Mother Therese accompanied Rosellyn on her travels bringing Ina to different places.

Healing

Sonia Atabug, PR director of Philippine Women's University, suffered from hyper-thyroidism two years ago. But her ailment was not immediately diagnosed though she suddenly lost so much weight. She could not eat very well and became very weak.

Rosellyn, a friend of former Sen. Helena Benitez, brought Sonia to Botolan where she prayed to Ina Poon Bato and asked that her sickness be diagnosed.

When Sonia returned to Manila, she consulted her brother Dr. Joselito Atabug, a cardiologist at the Capitol Medical Center. After several tests, Sonia was found to have hyperthyroidism. Ina answered her prayer.

When Dr. Atabug suggested surgery, Sonia prayed again to Ina. The doctor ruled out operation and prescribed oral medicine. Sonia is well now.

Those who wish to have prayers to Ina Poon Bato can write to Ina Poon Bato Foundation, Inc., at 33 Marikit St., West Triangle Homes, QC; or call 4110874.

Rescued

Lawyer Marcial A. Dizon and wife Natividad Zarate Dizon wouldn't have been able to celebrate their golden wedding in January had not our Lady of Guadalupe come to the rescue.

Marcial needed the type AB blood for his heart bypass operation at the Makati Medical Center in 2003. The nurse informed his daughters Maris and Bobbit that the operation would not push through if there was no reserved blood type AB. It was almost midnight and the sisters failed to get blood from hospitals and other blood banks.

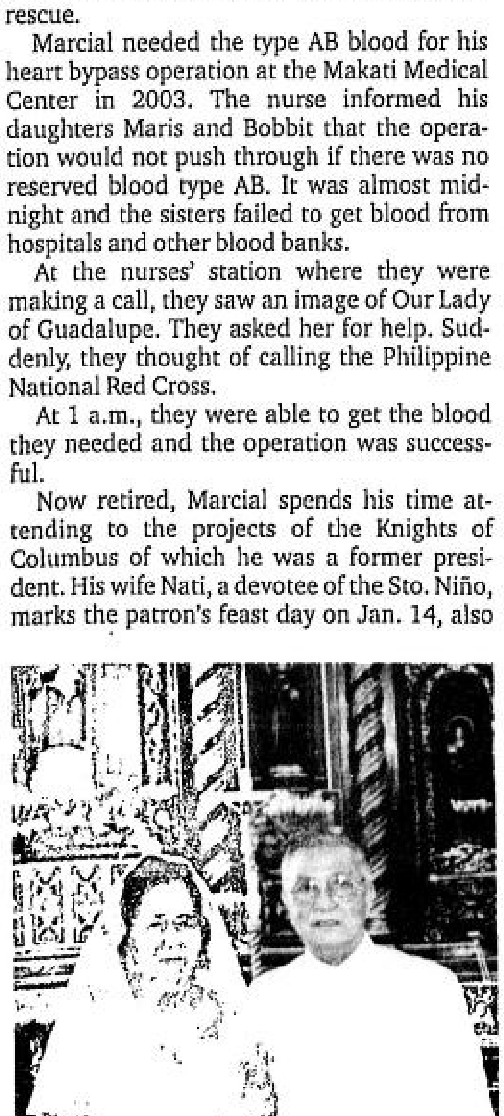
At the nurses' station where they were making a call, they saw an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. They asked her for help. Suddenly, they thought of calling the Philippine National Red Cross.

At 1 a.m., they were able to get the blood they needed and the operation was successful.

Now retired, Marcial spends his time attending to the projects of the Knights of Columbus of which he was a former president. His wife Nati, a devotee of the Sto. Niño, marks the patron's feast day on Jan. 14, also her wedding anniversary, with a *padasal* at home.

Last January, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a special Mass at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park and a reception at the Mandarin Hotel ballroom.

The couple, who hails from Pangasinan, had all their children around them—Bobbit, Maris, Boom, Irene, Jun and Nanette—and their 12 grandchildren. The gift given to guests was a smiling Sto. Niño.



DEVOTEES of the Sto. Niño: golden couple Natividad and lawyer Marcial Dizon

Conference

The recent Grafted-In conference at Caliraya Resort in Laguna decided to hold the 2007 event in Israel. To join, call 9262754.

Why Israel? The bloody and painful drama of Israel's plight as a people and as a nation is not to be taken lightly. God's commitment to Israel is eternal love, a living testimony that He is alive forevermore and His words, as declared in the Holy Scriptures, are true.

For centuries, nations have tried to destroy Israel. But, despite being a tiny nation, no one could destroy it completely because God is true and alive and His people are'a living testimony till eternity.

Ascension

Villa Escudero Plantation and Resort celebrates the Feast of the Ascension in colorful and elaborate religious rituals today.

The feast is one of the glorious, though lesser known, feasts of the Roman Catholic Church. It marks the ascent into heaven of Jesus Christ 40 days after His resurrection.

The Escuderos, from the forefathers to the present generation, have been observing the feast for more than century.

The religious celebration starts with a High Mass at the Villa Escudero Chapel at 9 a.m.

DEVOTEES of Ina Poon Bato: former Sen. Helena Benitez and Rosellyn Magsaysay

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TRAVELBRIEFS

Top destination

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano visited Palawan recently with Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig and Hiroshi Togo, chief representative of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), along with officers and staff of the Sustainable Environmental Management Project-Northern Palawan (SEMP-NP).

Durano said Palawan would become the top tourist destination of the country in the next 10 years with its "globally competitive attractions" and strict environmental protection and management program. He expressed hope that financial assistance could be extended to the province especially for infrastructure development.

30 cities in 30 months

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, celebrates the launching of 30 international destinations in 30 months.

The airline now flies to the world's important and prestigious cities, including Brussels, Belgium; Johannesburg, South Africa; Manchester, England; Toronto, Canada; Paris, France; and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Etihad has also opened new routes to Islamabad, Peshawarand Lahore in Pakistan; Jakarta, Indonesia; Muscat, Sultanate of Oman; and Manila. Etihad Airways flies to Manila four times per week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday). Call 8858433 to 35.

Low fares to Laoag

Cebu Pacific's Go fares let you fly to Laoag City on board the brand new Airbus A319 for as low as P888.

The self-styled Sunshine City of the Philippines takes pride in its culture, history and breathtaking sites. Among its many attractions are the sand dunes, the centuries-old St. William's Cathedral and Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino, the only five-star hotel in the Ilocos region.

Book ahead and enjoy great discounts from the country's pioneering "low cost, great value". airline. Log on to www.cebupacificair.com or call 7020888.

New aircraft

Emirates, the Dubai-based international airline, has increased capacity by more than 500 seats each week on its services between Dubai and London Gatwick.

The airline has introduced a new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft on one of its three daily flights to London Gatwick. The new aircraft provides 364 seats in a three-class configuration.

In addition to services from London Gatwick, the airline's 14 Boeing 777-300ER aircraft are also used on selected flights from London Heathrow, Manchester and Glasgow to Dubai, and from Dubai to Johannesburg, Manila and to Sydney and Auckland, via Bangkok.

Flores de Mayo features Maria Clara designs

THE ANNUAL FLORES DE Mayo 2006 of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP) featured the Maria Clara design at the turn of the century in sepia colors.

Now on its 27th year, the annual event was also sponsored by the Department of Tourism (DOT), city of Manila, and the Congregacion del Santisimo Niño Jesus.

It began at the Rajah Soliman Park in Malate and ended in Puerto Real Gardens in Intramuros.

Edgar San Diego, president of the FDAP, said the association was now on its 35th year and had 35 members.

Some of the judges were former models like Patty Betita, Marina Benipayo, Gem Padilla and Marilen Espina; author Cardie Roque, Assistant Tourism Secretary Edu Jarque, and Chito Macapagal of Unilever.

SAMANTHA Lewis, escorted by Geoffrey Taylor, in Richard Papa

CHIARA Felina Lim Borromeo, escorted by Richard Allen Kho, in Jose Pepe Quitco

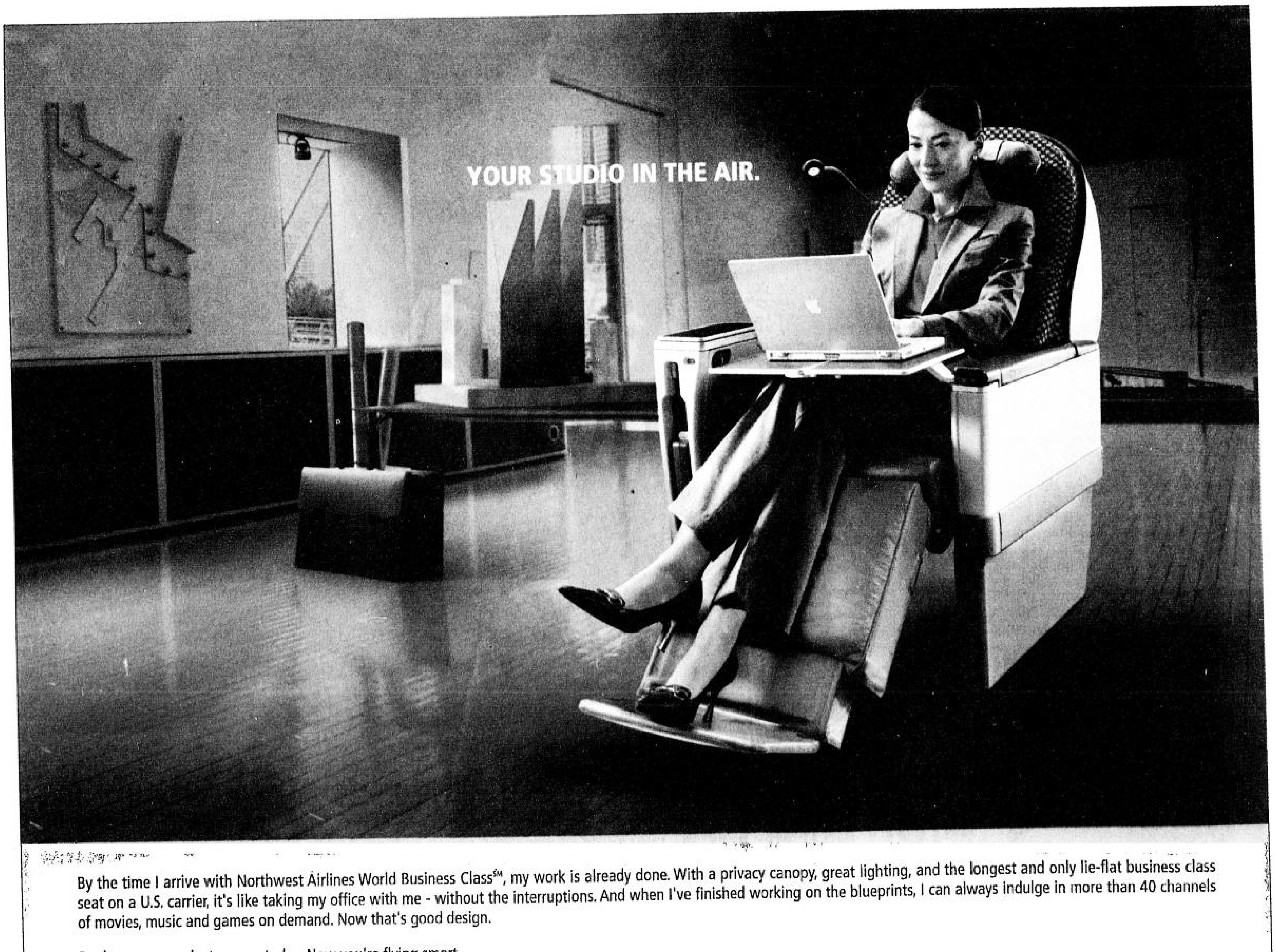
PHOTOS: MANDY NAVASERO

DIANA Jean Espedido, escorted by Gilbert Melgar, in Vivo Nazareth

DIANE Policina, escorted by Al Garana, in Rholand Roxas

JENG Cuyugan, escorted by Alvin Degamo, in Gener Gozum

KATHY Moya, escorted by Ernesto Torrefiel, in Ole Morabe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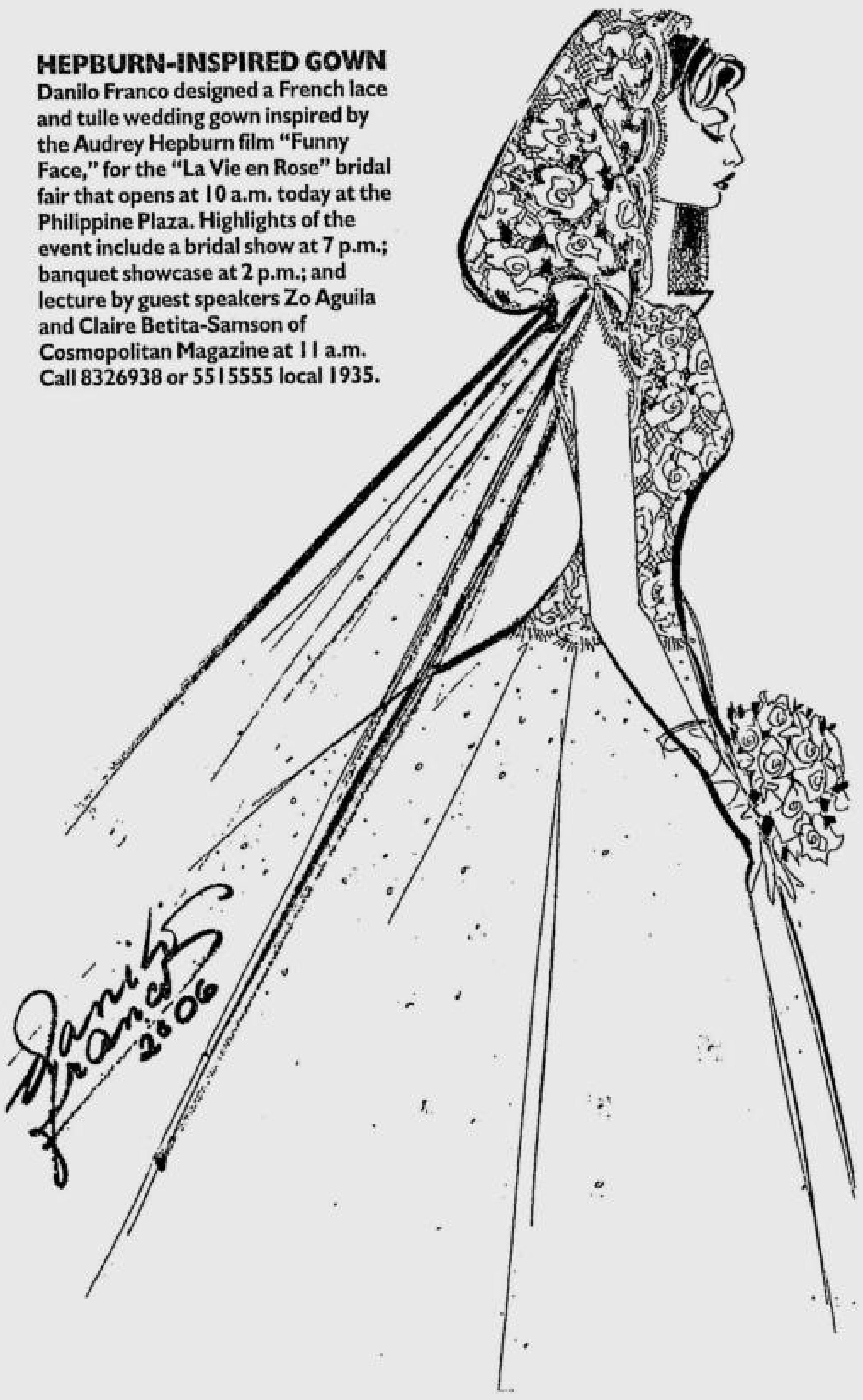
HEPBURN-INSPIRED GOWN Danilo Franco designed a French lace and tulle wedding gown inspired by the Audrey Hepburn film "Funny Face," for the "La Vie en Rose" bridal fair that opens at 10 a.m. today at the Philippine Plaza. Highlights of the event include a bridal show at 7 p.m.; banquet showcase at 2 p.m.; and lecture by guest speakers Zo Aguila and Claire Betita-Samson of Cosmopolitan Magazine at 11 a.m. Call 8326938 or 5515555 local 1935.



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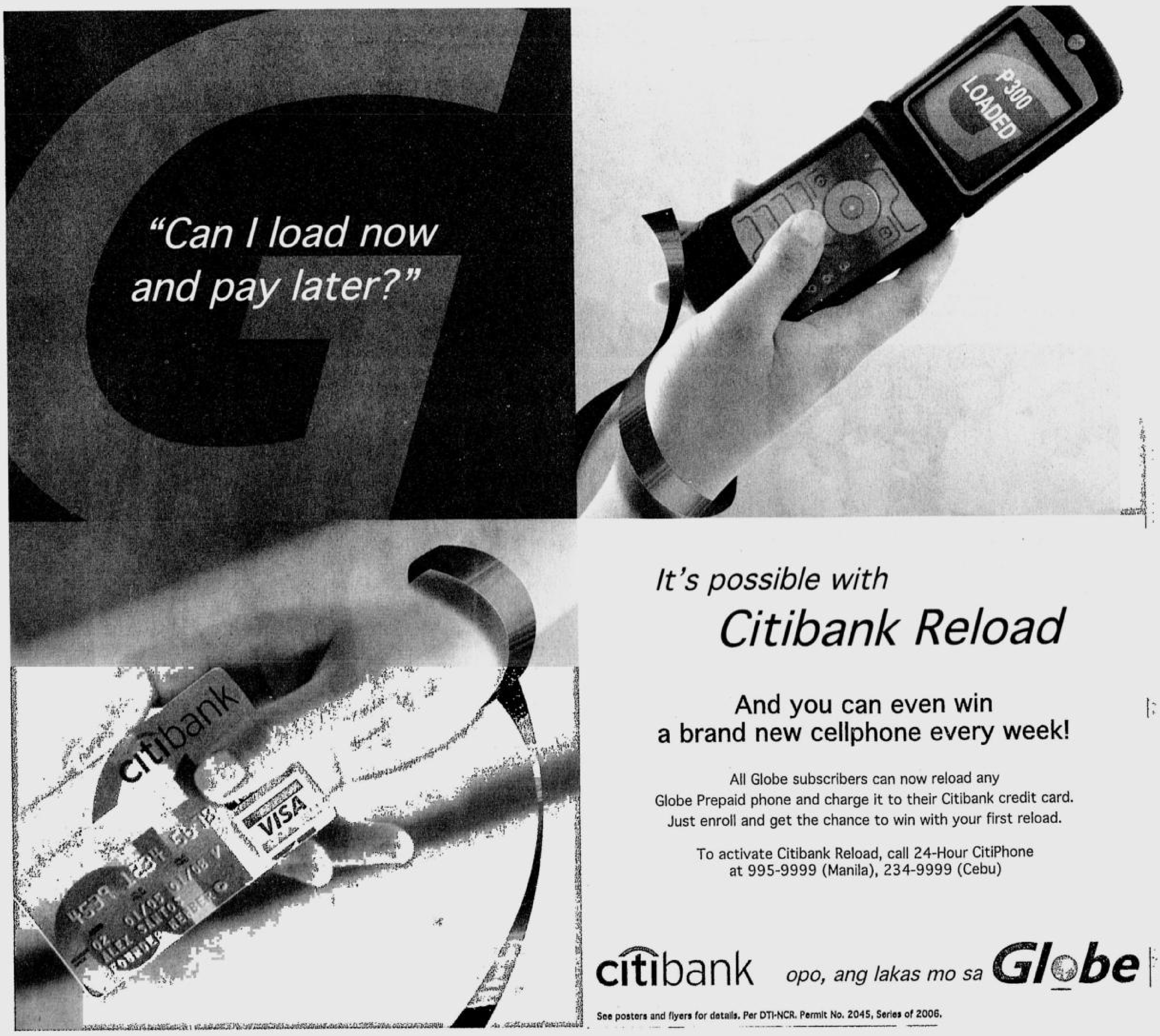

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Inquirer president pla Oprah in appreciation

By Marco T. Sumayao

PERHAPS THE FREE LUGGAGE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS a sign of things to come. In a feat similar to Oprah's "Wildest Dreams" specials, Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez took on the popular talk show host's role and gave all guests a Dream Vacation package at an appreciation party held last May 22 at Captain's Bar in Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer threw the party in honor of its top 50 advertisers and agencies who, over the years, have consistently made the Inquirer the number one news publication in the country. Guests were welcomed with a gift of free travel luggage upon their arrival, which would prove useful later in the evening as the Inquirer would raffle off special vacation packages.

The appreciation party was held in the wake of the recently concluded 2006 Nielsen Nationwide Media Index Survey, according to which the Philippine Daily Inquirer is ranked first in readership among broadsheets in the Philippines. Internationally renowned singer Mon David, grand prize winner of the first-ever London International Jazz Competition for Vocalists, opened the program with a superb performance. Inquirer board chair Marixi Prieto followed soon after with the opening remarks, welcoming the guests with style.

Local comedy duo Ariel and Maverick later brought the house down laughing with their investigation of what makes the Inquirer number one. The two portrayed undercover agents infiltrating an elementary school field trip to the Inquirer offices. From the results of their spying, the titillating twosome concluded that the Philippine Daily Inquirer is the nation's leading broadsheet due to the loyalty of its valued readers; the continued trust of its advertisers; the fact that the publication has won more than 200 journalism awards; the wide range of products the Inquirer offers, among which are Libre, MPH magazine, and PC magazine; and ultimately—and hilariously— Guyito, the Inquirer's lovable mascot.

President and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, in her closing remarks, thanked the "sherpas" of her organization who continue to serve as the backbone of the Inquirer. Because of their support, the Inquirer is able to continue providing excellent service.

The highlight of the evening came as Ariel and Maverick assumed hosting duties for the night's raffle. Guests were promised a party they would never forget, and the Inquirer made sure to deliver. In celebration of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's 20 successful years, it was announced that 20 lucky winners would be drawn to win a 3-day, 2-night trip for two to their choice from a list of 20 local destinations. President and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez was called up to the stage to assist in the draw. A buzz of excitement grew in the air as the hosts suggested to Prieto-Romualdez that, instead of just 20 winners, why not have more of the guests win their dream vacation? The two hosts continued to haggle with Prieto-Romualdez, and the audience's cheers escalated into a booming crescendo as Prieto-Romualdez announced that each and every guest that night would win the trip of their choice. It was an incredible surprise in appreciation of the Inquirer's valued clients. Never before had every single guest gone home a winner. The night ended in celebration as the Philippine Daily Inquirer proved that it is indeed good to be Number One.

The party was one in a series of events to be held as an expression of the Inquirer's gratitude for all the support it has received since its founding 20 years ago. The Inquirer had previously shown its appreciation to its readers with the Platinum Code Contest, wherein readers deciphered codes printed in the newspaper for a chance to win P50,000. Readers can also expect something big in the near future, for without its loyal following, the Philippine Daily Inquirer would not be the country's top newspaper today.

TOP Guns. PDI executives Pepito Olarte, Rene Reinoso and Kenny Nuyda enjoying the party with Charlie Manio of Cebu Pacific, Mel Dizon of Mitsubishi Motors, Raul Alvarez of PLDT and Bobby Banaag of Republic Planters' Bank.

PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romuald of the board Marixi Prieto with Rusta

ALL in the family. Charlie Agatep, Monique Agatep-Ignacio and Norman Agatep of Euro RSCG/ Agatep and Associates with PDI's Jocel Adorable.

PDI's Marixi Prieto with Joey Avellana of Avellana and Associates.

POSING for the camera Policarpio of Message B Marivic Arugay of Filinve

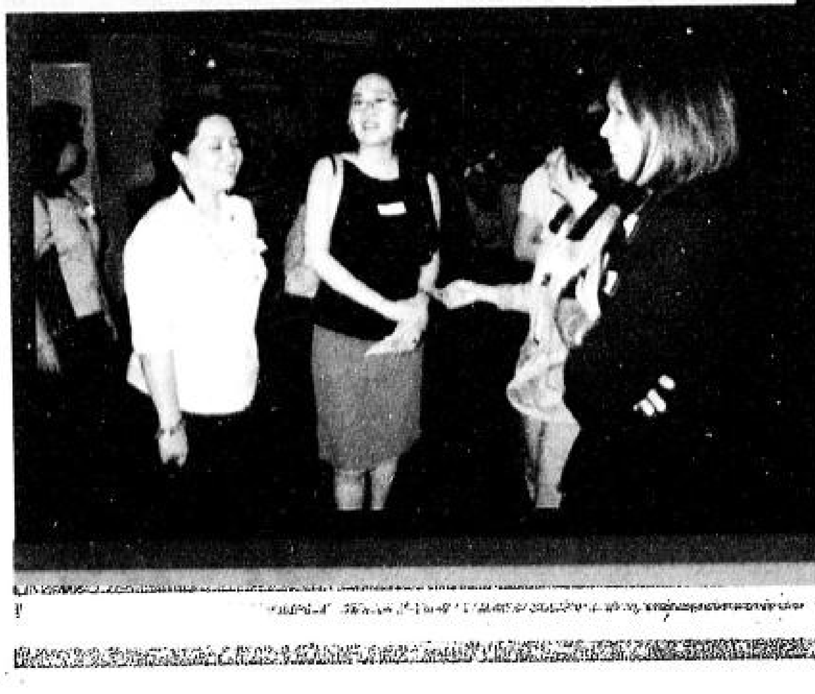
DANNIE Regudo, Chiqui Lizada, Edith Ibañez, Suzette Marquez of Campaigns and Grey with PDI's Jenny Rockwell, Lita Pascual, Apol Fontanilla, Larry Mariano and Len Delos Reyes.

SATISFIED customers. Mitos Camahort of Ima Ferdinand Marcos, Precy Chan, Irene Sarmien PDI's Len Delos Reyes.

MARIXI Prieto, Pepito Olarte and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez of PDI pose and mingle with Frederick Go of Robinsons Land and Patricia Arches of McCann Erickson.

TONTON Santiago and Jenny Mesa of Mediaforce with PDI's Lita Pascual, Larry Mariano and Izel Medina.

MA. TERESA Lopez and Penny Gonzales of Prime Advertising w PDI's Jenny Rockwell,



PDI's Aggie Pinili and Grace Penales welcome Toti Ignacio and Marivic Gonzales from Caballero and Associates.

DELIGHTED advertisers. Aris Gonzales, Eunice Acejo, Lalaine Corpus and Kats Pelaez of Ayala Land flashing their Dream Travel Destination Certificates.

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party

dez, PDI EVP Dave Valdes and PDI chairman
ans' Rico Tantoco.

"Thank you for making Inquirer No. 1 ... Again!"

. Yvette
reau and
st Mall.

J. ROMERO and Associates' Muffet Flores, Arcie Cruz, Andre Khan, Fe Gervacio and Cristy Miranda with PDI's Lita Pascual and Larry Mariano.

ge Dimensions, Fatima Ferrer,
o and Mike Rivero of Starcom with

LOVELY ladies. Sandra Garcia and Rheena Radan of St. Francis Tower and Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Message Bureau with PDI's Marella Lucero and Andrea Jongo.

WITH valued Inquirer clients. PDI's Jocel Adorable, Lita Pascual, Ning Lalicon and Larry Mariano with Malou Gayapa, Kathy De Guzman and Janette Perez of Carat Philippines.

ith

JING Carandang of Manprom, one of the first lucky 'winners' of the night.

JONES Campos of Globe Telecom about to showcase his singing prowess.

FIRST batch of 'winners'. Patricia Arches of McCann Erickson, Bernadette Ramos of Filinvest Land and Minnie Reyes of Ad Creator on stage with Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and comedy duo Ariel and Maverick.

'WE'RE all winners!' Guests from Mediawise Anna Comia, Yeyet De Leon, Rosahlee Bautista, Ann Sibayan and Junie Ann Cruz celebrate as the party's surprise was announced.

MICKY Domingo of Mccann Erickson gamely struts his way to win a Dream Vacation Package.

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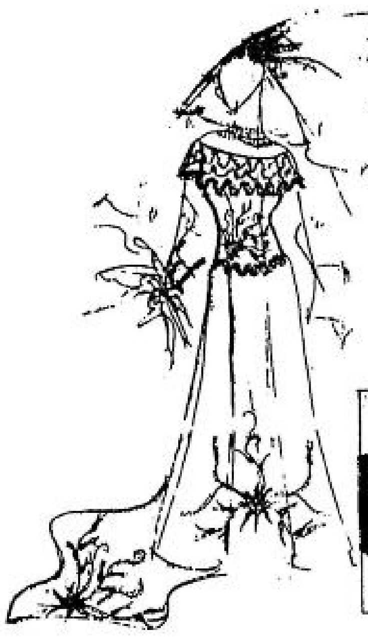
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



RAGUS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

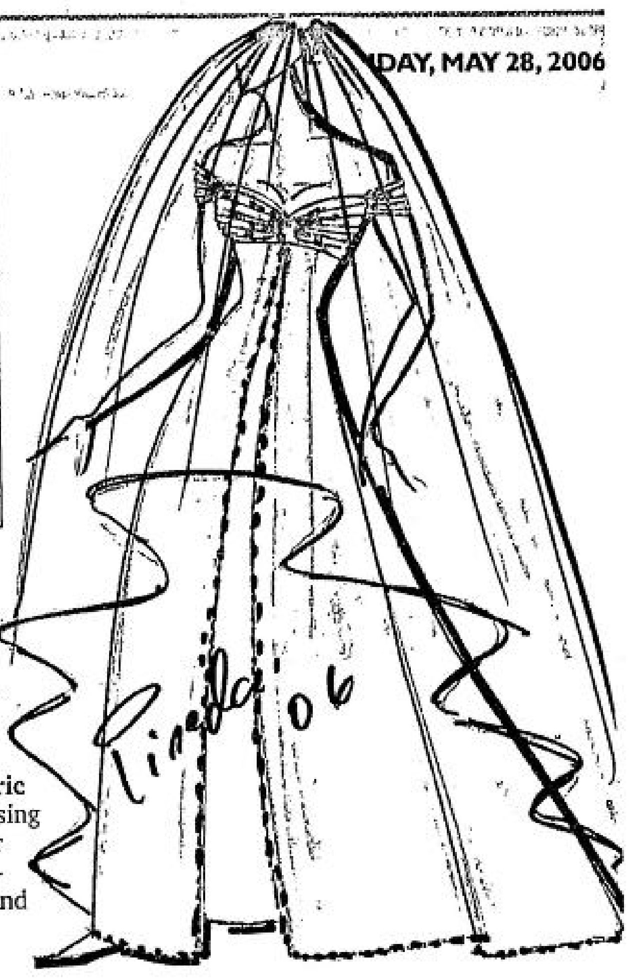
Patrocinio and **Fermina Ragus** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Gamu, Isabela. Reception was held at Marj Hotel, Ilagan, Isabela. The bridal gown was designed by **Erwin Cabato** of Glowdezza, Zamboanga City.

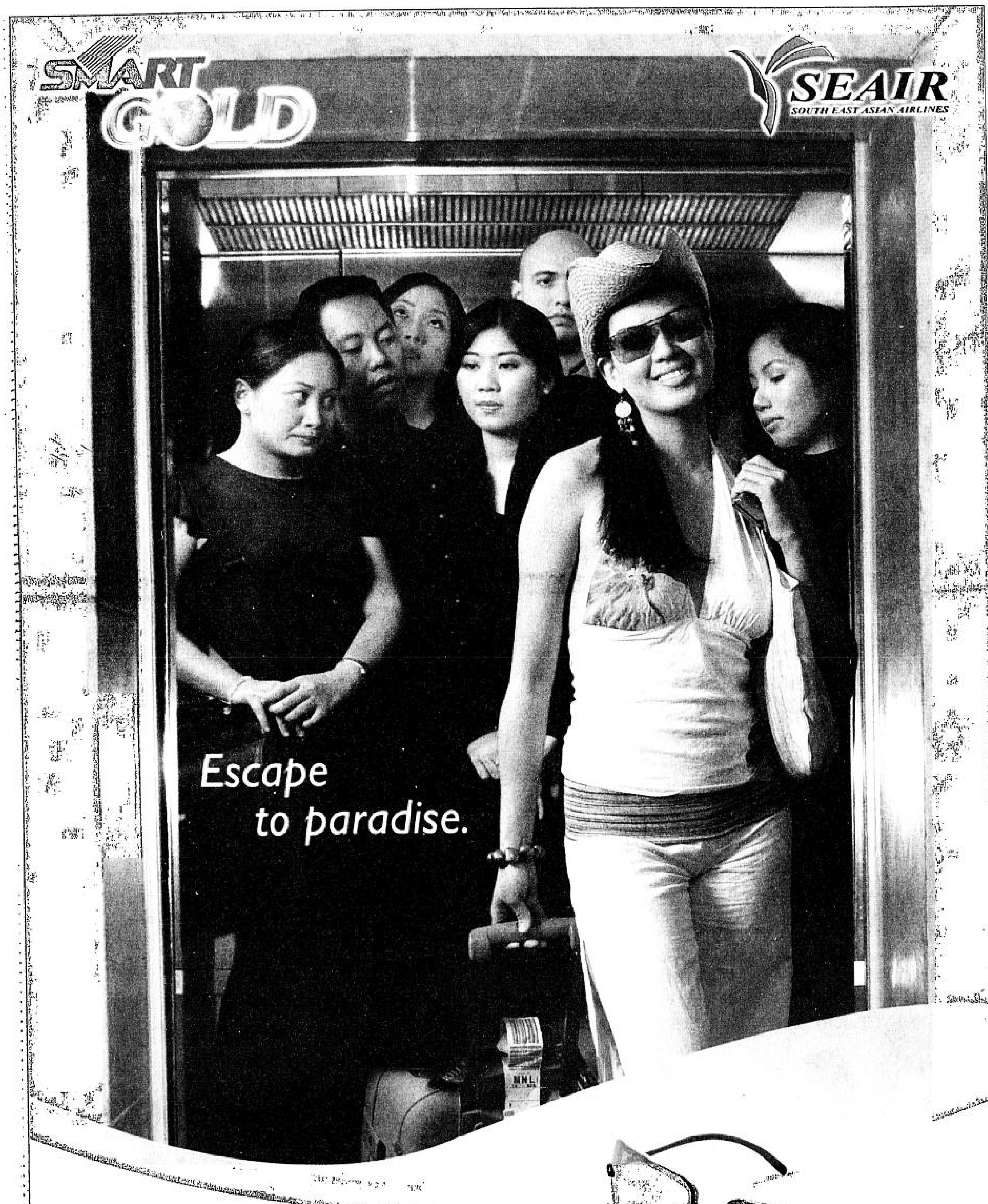
AÑOSA-MONTESINES

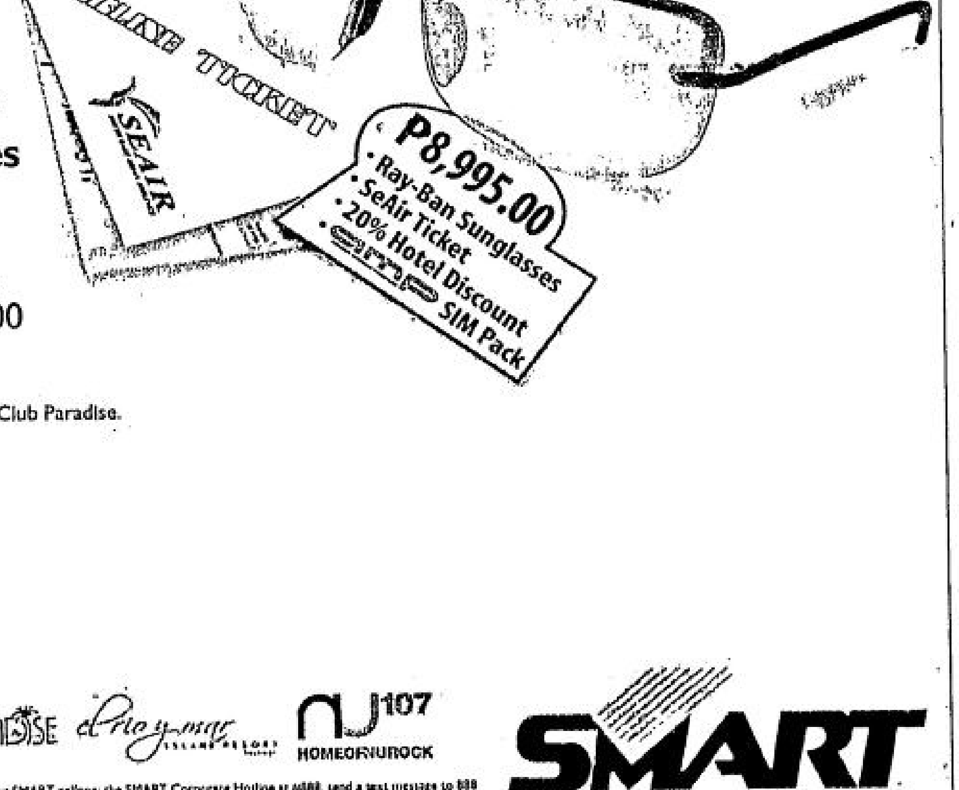
Vincent B. Añosa and **Lala M. Montesines** will wed on June 17, 10:30 a.m., at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at 12 noon, at Kamayan Restaurant, P. Faura, Malate, Manila.

WADA-LUCAS

Hiyas Lucas, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Remedios Lucas**, recently tied the matrimonial knot with **Masakazu Wada**, son of **Yoshito** and **Fusayo Wada**, at the Church of Nuestra Señora de Guia, Ermita, Manila. Reception followed at Jadevine Restaurant in Manila. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown using ivory Italian satin. The off-shoulder ruched bodice is empire-cut and embellished with rhinestones, pearls and pailletes.







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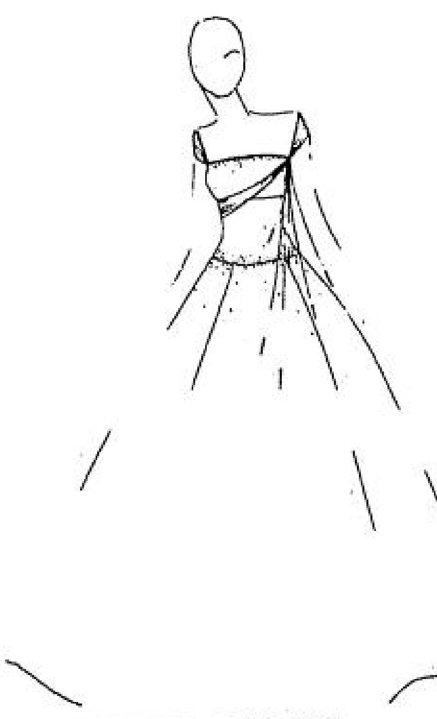
NAVARRA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Rogelio, son of **Lorlina** and **Paterno Navarra**, and **Mitzi**, daughter of **Eufemio** and **Dulia Pulmones**, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Jaro Cathedral. The event was shared with their family, friends and children **Roald, Otto Von** and **Lorlene.** The bride's gown was made by **Grace Clavel.** The reception was held at the Sarabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo City.

ABUNTO-AGUILUZ

Dr. **Ruben A. Abunto Jr.**, son of Dr. **Ruben** and Dr. **Mercedes Abunto,** will wed Dr. **Maria Rosario Aguiluz**, daughter of Dr. **Amable Aguiluz Jr. II** and the late **Dolores Aguiluz**, today, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Reception will follow at Makati Shangri-La Hotel.



MORENO-DE GUZMAN

Danilo Moreno, son of **Jesus** and **Victoria Moreno**, will wed **Joan de Guzman**, daughter of **Erlinda vda. de Guzman**, on June 10, at St. Ignatius de Loyola Parish at Poblacion Monkayo, Comval Province. **Tata Soriano** is wedding coordinator.

GONZAGA DEBUT

Carla Marie T. Gonzaga, daughter of **Marlon** and **Carmelita Gonzaga** of Marikina City, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at Riverbend Pearl Ballroom, Riverbend Hotel-Riverbanks, Marikina City.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday FESTYLE

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SEE PAGE H5

NEWLYWEDS
Juju and Carissa Evangelista

Joy and laughter in Macau wedding

By Marcia E. Sandoval
Contributor

CLEAR BLUE SKIES HUNG over picturesque Taipa island off the Macau mainland the day Honesto (Juju) Evangelista and Carissa Cruz exchanged wedding vows surrounded by a small group of family and friends.

None could have asked for a better setting for the intimate affair. The quaint chapel of Mt. Carmel, situated on top of a hill, commanded a spectacular view of the city below. It was adorned inside and out with hundreds of giant white roses.

As Evangelista and Cruz wanted a simple wedding without the bells and whistles Manila celebrations are wont to have, all preparations for the big day were made by

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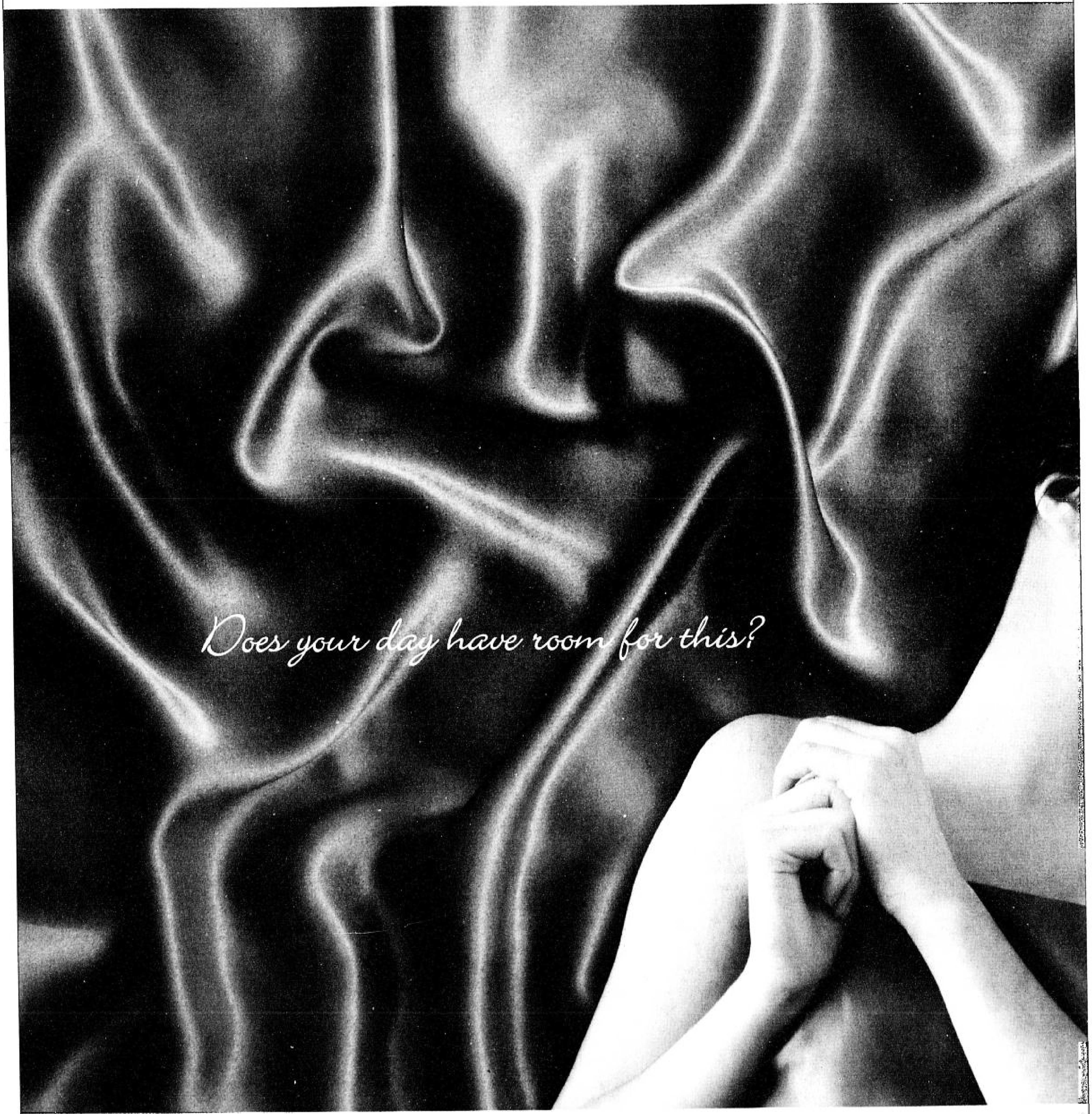

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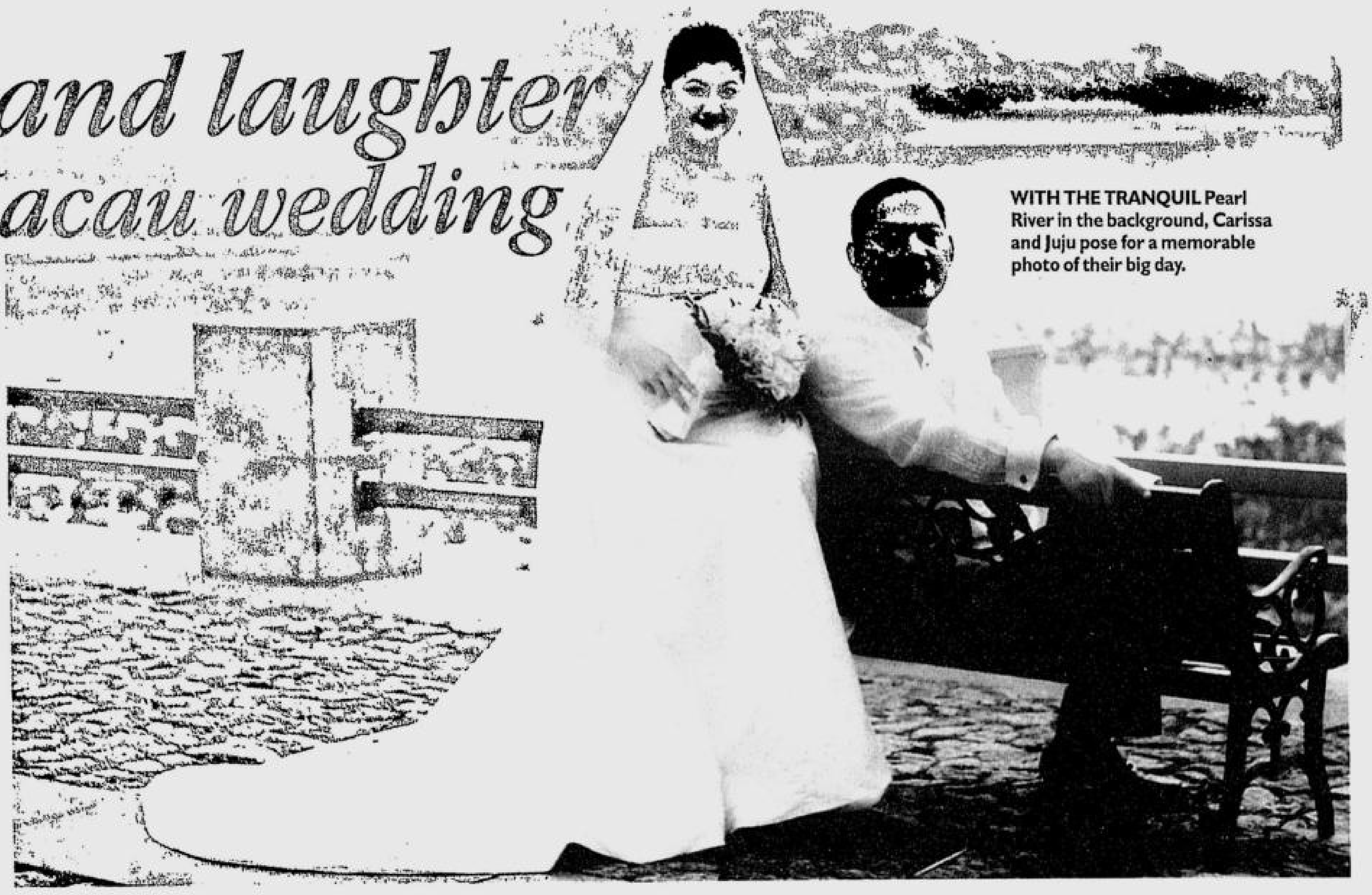
THE GROOM'S family pose under an arch of roses: Mat and Cyd Dizon, Jonathan and Chinggay Dizon, Nesty Evangelista, the couple, mother of the groom Tess Evangelista, Tojie and Giana Evangelista and Rosie Relampagos

THE BRIDE'S maternal kin: Rep. Isidro Rodriguez, Lucel Villanueva, Mardi Changungco, Chona Nakpil, Cely Wong (partly hidden), Betchay Nakpil, Bong Wong, Abby Robles, Marichu Maceda, Boy Nakpil and Maryann Robles

Joy and laughter in Macau wedding



WITH THE TRANQUIL Pearl River in the background, Carissa and Juju pose for a memorable photo of their big day.

From page F1

family members and friends—from the planning and decorating down to the church choir composed of cousins and friends.

The wedding was a joyful and intimate celebration, with the loved ones of the bride and groom sharing laughs throughout the evening.

Awkward moment

The two best men, Joey Reyes and Togie Evangelista, marching down the aisle side by side, began the wedding procession. But the passageway was too narrow for them both, so they ambled forward awkwardly, much to the amusement of the guests.

A few minutes later, with everyone standing awaiting the bride and her father's walk down the aisle, a loud whisper from the pews reminded the father of the bride that his daughter was supposed to be holding the bouquet—not him.

A flustered and embarrassed Phillip Cruz explained that this was his first time to play father of the bride, and he was still rather unsure of the mechanics. He held the heavy bouquet for his daughter as she fixed her shoe before the procession. Cheers and warm laughter filled the chapel as the slip-up was corrected and the bridal march resumed.

Cruz was radiant in a creation by internationally acclaimed couturier Josie Cruz-Natori, her aunt and godmother. The gown, elegant in its simplicity, was made of heavy satin flown in especially from Paris, its bouffant skirt flowing out into a long train. The scene-stealer, however, was an intricate veil with a sprinkling of delicate flowery lace sewn by hand.

Cruz wore heirloom diamond earrings from her grandmother Angelita Cruz. The bride was met at the altar by a beaming Evangelista, who looked dashing in a finely embroidered traditional piña barong.

Proud moms

Fr. Edwin Pasaporte, a Filipino priest and a long time resident of Macau, officiated at the ceremony. The proud mothers of bride and groom looked on approvingly. The mother of the bride, Gina Perez-de Venecia, wore a showstopping Rajo Laurel gown of organza bolero in tiffany green studded with sparkles of varying shades of green. Teresita Guzman-Evangelista, the groom's mother, was fashionably dressed in an emerald green Paul Cabral evening gown with exquisite beading. A pair of emerald earrings completed the look.

Principal sponsor President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made an overnight stopover in Macau on her way to a state visit in Saudi Arabia. Speaker José de Venecia, himself a sponsor, escorted the President at the wedding procession.

Other principal sponsors were Virma Potenciano Vergel de Dios, Cruz-Natori, Rep. Amelita Villarosa, Marcia Evangelista-Sandoval, Teresita Albert, Ching Cruz, Tessie Sy-Coson, lawyer Fulgencio Factoran, Dr. Felipe Sese, Dr. Bienvenido David, Roberto Paterno, Henry Ting and Miguel Guzman.

Other members of the wedding entourage were Bunny Reyes, matron of honor; Cheese Ledesma, maid of honor; Chinggay Evangelista-Dizon, Pinky Tobiano, Cutie del Mar, Wendy Xa, Barbie Pardo-Tiangco and Larisa Layug-Sion, bridesmaids; Jonathan Dizon, Toff de Venecia, Maki Cruz, Joey Palma, Joel Ong, and Wiggy Funtanilla, groomsmen.

Candle sponsors were Camilo Vasquez and Bonbon Robles-Vasquez; cord sponsors, Manny Maceda and Lyra Rufino-Maceda; and veil sponsors, Robie Sandoval and Caren Marquez-Tiangco. Matthew Dizon and Max Maceda were ring bearer and coin bearer, respectively. Flower girls were Cyd Dizon, Cocoy Martinez, and Karrel Santiago.

Cocktails, dinner and dancing followed at the Westin Resort Hotel's country clubhouse in Coloane, Macau. After dinner, Cruz recounted how Evangelista proposed to her in romantic Amanpulo, while showing a special video he made for her. In her confusion, she did not know whether to look at the television set, or at him, kneeling down on one knee.

The reception hall was made festive with hanging round Japanese lanterns in apple green, pool blue and white. The round of toasts put the guests in a merry mood. The newlyweds' parents wished the couple lots of children that the grandparents could spoil silly.

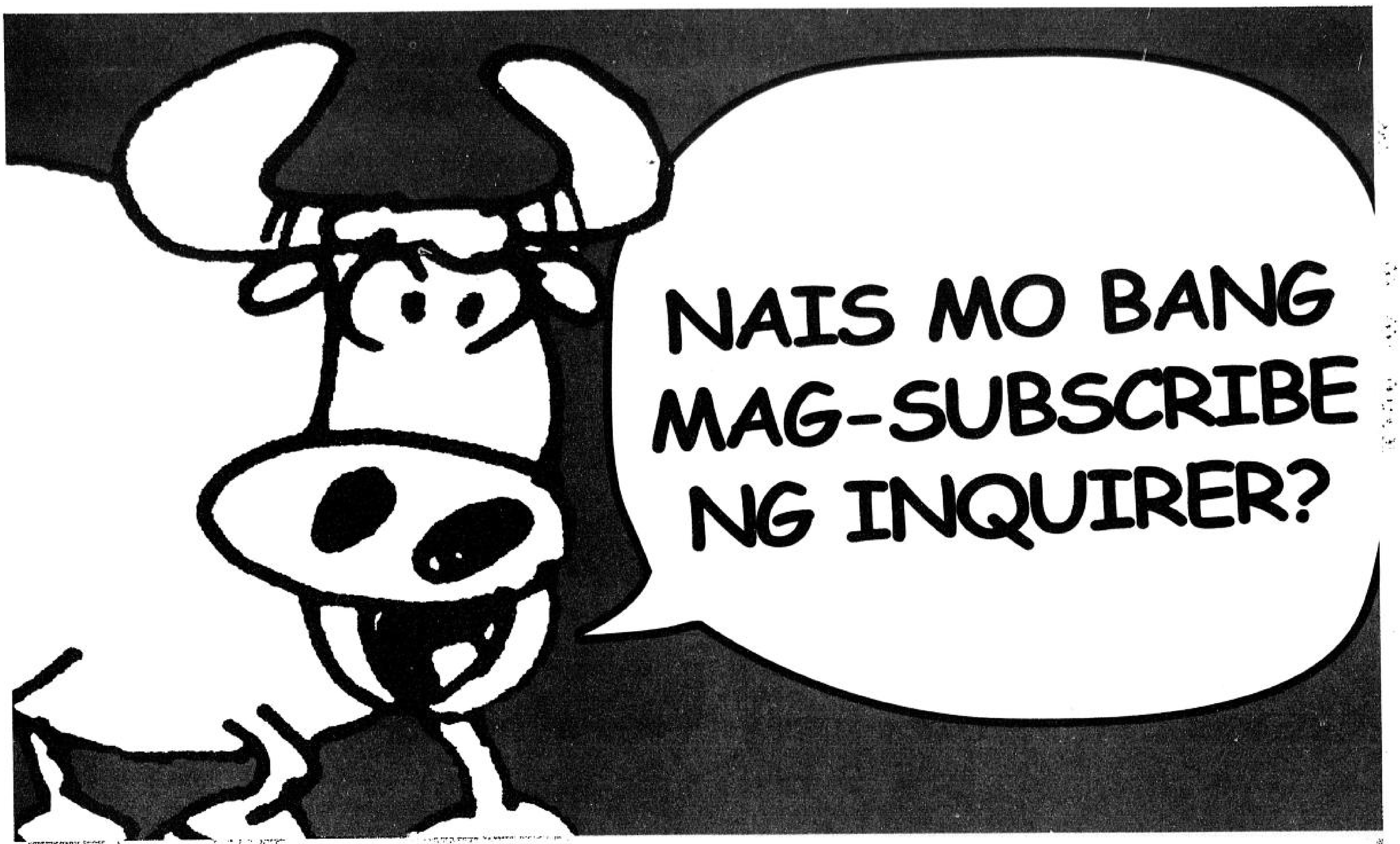
The in-house band then had the merrymakers swinging to funky disco music until the wee hours of the morning.

NERVOUS father of the bride, Philip Cruz, carries the bridal bouquet halfway down the wedding procession until he realizes his faux pas.

THE NEWLYWEDS with the bridesmaids in blue: Coren Tiangco, Larisa Layug, Chinggay Dizon, Wendy Xa, Cutie del Mar and Cheese Ledesma

A flustered father of the bride almost marched down the aisle carrying the bride's bouquet

THE WEDDING sponsors make for a jolly pose: Ching Cruz, Josie Natori, Rep. Girlie Villarosa, President Macapagal-Arroyo, the newlyweds, Teresita Albert, Marcia Sandoval, Vilma Vergel de Dios and Margot Moreno. Second row: Fulgencio Factoran, Roberto Paterno, Speaker José de Venecia, Henry Ting, Larry Laroya, Dr. Felipe Sese, Boni Vergel de Dios and Boy Nakpil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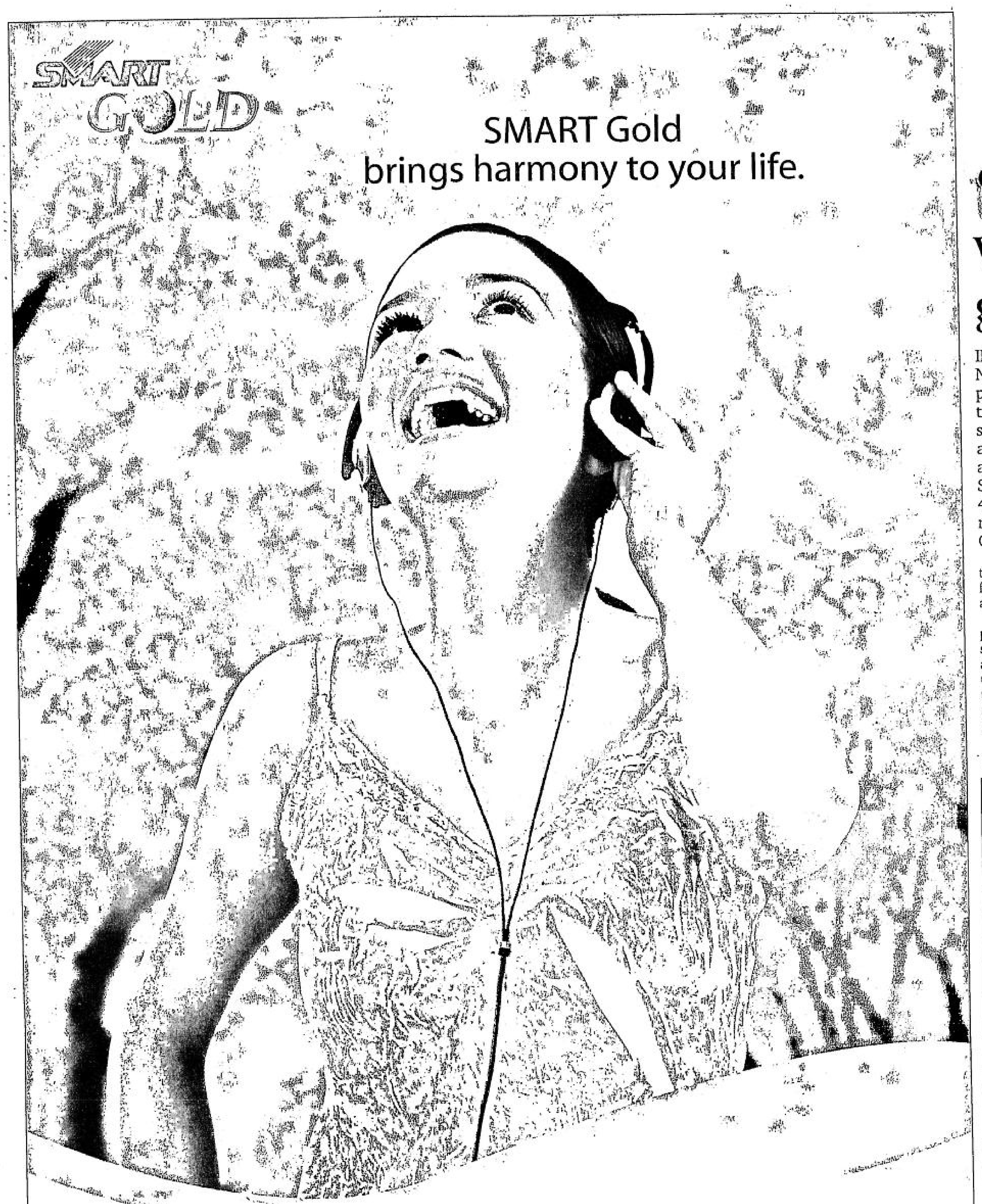
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2681, Series of 2006.

Wedding giveaways

IHEALTH'S Nlite Gifts will present its collection of health and spa giveaways and spa party kits at The Wedding Summit, June 3-4, Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria, Ortigas.

The kits are suitable for garden, beach and traditional weddings. A special line created for couples with common interests in sports, adventure and travel will also be showcased.

The personalized spa and aromatherapy products include sun oils, eye pillows, massage oils, scented candles, bath salts, room and linen sprays. Healthy food like sugar-free tea cakes, mints and cookies are packed in themed monogrammed boxes such as flip-flops, sun hats, beach totes, barong, bridal gown, scuba gear, backpack, tent boxes.

For the wedding summit, visit www.philippineweddingsummit.com

Wedding fair to be held June 3-4

THE PHILIPPINE Wedding Summit 2006 will be held June 3-4 at the Grand Ballroom of Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

Envisioned to be an annual event, the event is supported by the Food Caterers Association of the Philippines (FCAP), Philippine Association of Wedding Planners (PAWP), and Wedding and Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (WPPP).

Exhibitors will offer special promos on products and services, discounts, giveaways, product samples and hourly raffles.

An exhibit of Filipiniana wedding costumes in special tableaus entitled "Majestic Luzon," "Visayan Elegance" and "Royal Mindanao" will be presented by participating suppliers.

Wedding suppliers can participate in free special career enhancement seminars/entrepreneurship workshops. Call Themes and Motifs at 3719783 or 4100032.

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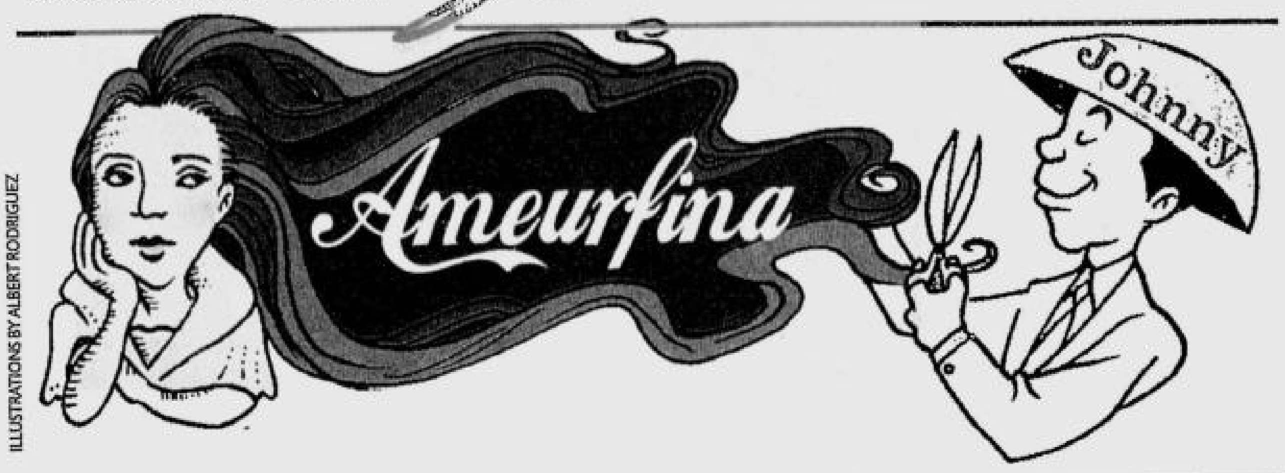

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

POST-WWII NAMES AND NICKNAMES

Freddie, Ludy, Toto and Ching

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Part II

PATRIOTIC FERVOR during the first decade of the American Occupation produced names like Luzviminda, Ameurfina (America-Europe-Philippines),

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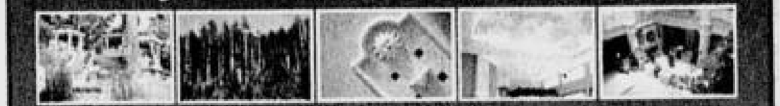

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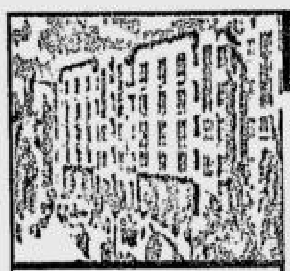

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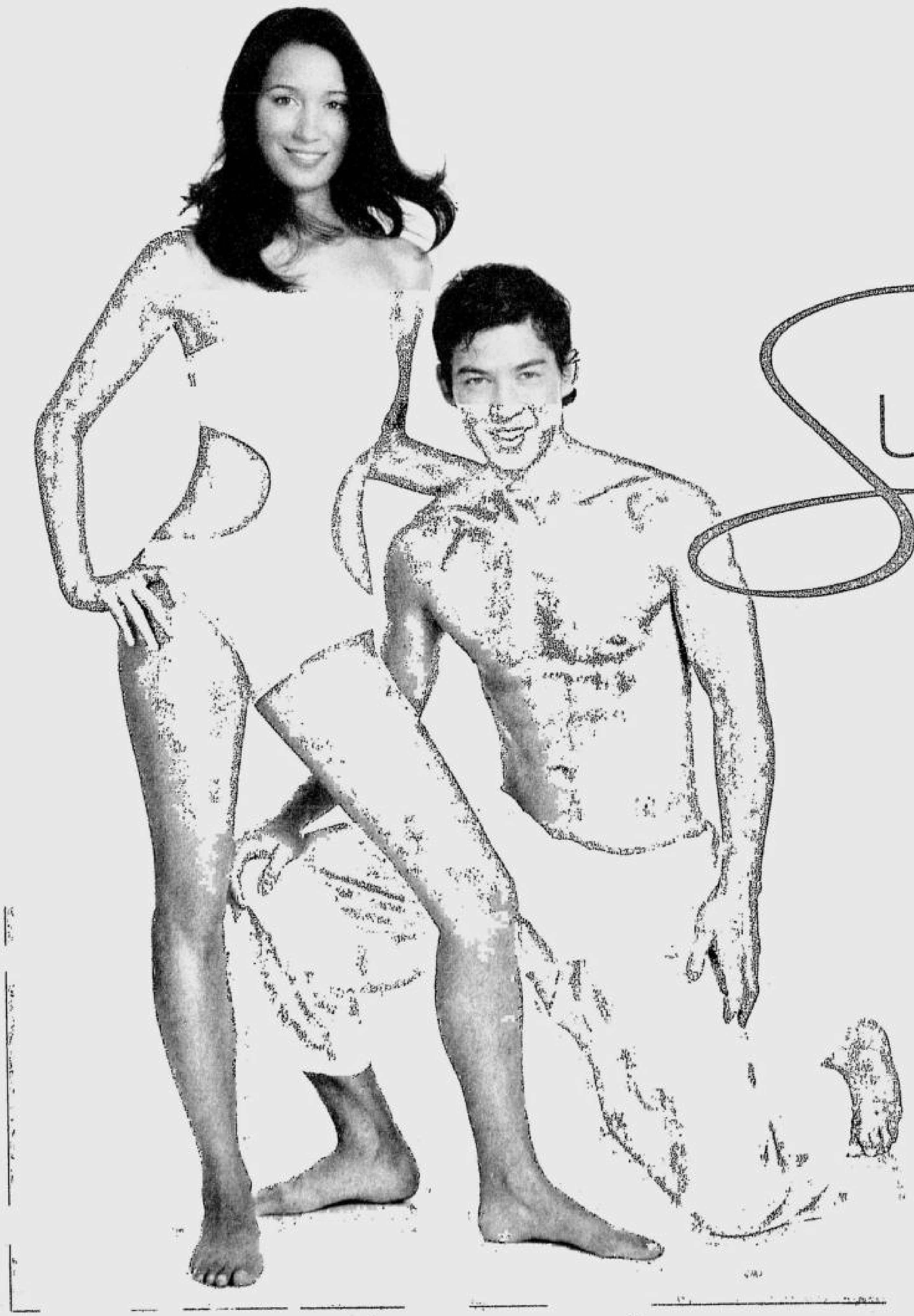


Meet the 2006 Century Tuna Superbods
Michele Padua & Jon Mullaly

At the Century Tuna Superbods Beachfest in Boracay last April 29, we found this perfect pair to embody the clean and healthy Century Tuna lifestyle.

They won P500,000 each as Century Tuna's new image models.

Michele and Jon have fit bodies, glowing skin, and active lifestyles that they attribute to their diet of protein-packed and Omega-3 rich Century Tuna.

To Superbods Michele & Jon, congratulations!

Century® TUNA
the Supermeat

Freddie, Ludy, Toto and Ching

From page G1

Dakila, Bayani, Patria, Rizalina. It was also the beginning of Tagalog names: Ligaya, Diwata, Dalisay, Magsikap, Tagumpay, Dakila, Luningning, Liwayway, Paraluman, and, in tribute to the *zarzuela*, Bituin. (The anti-friar Aglipayans were the first to use them).

Many of the old names survived World War II but the longer ones—like Eufrocina and Quitoriano, Obdulia and Sisenando—were lost in transit and thenceforward considered funny. Today, Casimiro Bucaycay, poor fellow, has gotten translated into Cashmere Bouquet. Not a single Canuto was left.

Shorter names of three or two syllables, instead of four, became the "in" thing. Most names were still from the calendar of saints. Runaway favorites of the '50s were Teresita (Teresing, Tita, Titang, Tess, Tessie, Tessa, Terry, Tere, Techie, Ching, Chit, Chiching, though Tising and Esang dropped by the wayside); Lourdes (Ludy, Lulu, Luli, Desi and Lourds but no longer Luding or Onding); Mercedes (Ditas and Mercy) lived on but not Chedeng, which became a car.

Old nicknaming seemed so casual but was actually quite rigid. Diosdados were never Dodongs, only Conrados were. Loleng was a Dolores but never a Soledad. Several decades later, however, the nickname code relaxed so much there was an Ernestina nicknamed Bingbing, a Paulynn nicknamed Meiling, and a Horacio nicknamed Dacky. Recently, one señora couldn't hack her young driver's nickname which was Embot. Maybe he had a better first name that they could use? Well, it was Gorgonio!

The same Christian male names stuck on for a whole century, as immutable as the black, gray, navy blue and brown of men's pants. The pet names, however, improved in the '50s and '60s with the introduction of blue jeans. Now there was Ed or Eddie (for Eduardo, Edmundo, Edgardo), Fred and Freddie (for Federico, Alfredo), Bert (for Norberto, Roberto, Gilberto), Vic (for Victor and Vicente), Danny for Daniel, Manny for Manuel.

In place of "ing" or "y" endings, "s" became the new additive. Hence Ricardo became Cards, Conrado became Rads, Godo became Gods, Pepe became Peps. Guillermos became Willys but for some reason never Bills or Billys. (The National Artist Billy Abueva's nickname, he reveals, came from his second name, Isabelo [Isabilo in Visayan].)

Dissatisfied guys still stuck with stale, Spanish-period names can still apply for legal change of name. Behold the possibilities—Juan Andador for Johnny Walker, Pedro Makabenta for Peter Sellers, Leon Mangubat for Tiger Woods. Not to mention Ginang Bukid who can become Mrs. Fields.

With time, Undo (Raymundo) evolved into Ray; Berling became Virgil; Kikoy, Franz. Ute** became Jojo; Gusting, Auggie; Citang, Patsy; Barang, Barbie. Poor Tikia and Cualang were deemed un-recyclable. *(See table of sampler of '30s names and nicknames)*

The day of the Mary Lous

After World War II, the American presence was well-established in Philippine names. In the late '40s-'50s, there was a boom in Mary Lous (though it still stood for Maria Lourdes or Maria Luisa), Mary Anns, Mary Janes, Mary Rose's, Mary Joans, Mary Beths. Also their hispanized counterparts—Maricar, Marivic, Maricris, Maridol, Marichu, Marilen, Maruja, Maricel, Marimar (sorry!), Maripi, and Marife.

Other stateside names that crept in were Elizabeth, Juliet, Nancy, Sheila, Emilie, Judy, Jeannie, Doris, Betty, Betsy, Katy, Leilani. A few Shirleys appear in every other generation. The same old '50s male names persisted such as Lorenzo, Joaquin, Cesar, Emmanuel, Jaime, Felipe, Daniel. Popular nicknames were Louie, Mike, Andy, Tony, Benny, Steve, Teddy, Jimmy, Jess (ho-hum).

When they got tired of the same old diminutives, the men began to nickname their surnames. And so we have Santi (for Santiago), Lardy (for Lardizabal), Enky for Encarnacion, Reggie for Regalado. It also became handy for a class with many pupils of the same name to do likewise. For example, four Tinas were identified as Tina Bo (Bonoan), Tina Gat (Gatbonton), Tina Gas (Gaskell), Tina Achu (Achacoso).

As a reaction to the kilometric names of their *lolos* and *lolas*, the '60s generation were given brief, gunshot nicknames like Bing, Bong, Dong, Ding, Ping, Toots, Tats, Ming, Leng, Ging, Pong, Meng, Roy, Boy, Toy. But we are ever-wishful of abundance. We pluralized Spanish words we adopted—*boton* became *botones* (even if only one); *reloj, relos; zapato, sapatos*.

We made coke, cokes; nurse, nurses (we wish!). Even a cold had to be colds. So how could a one-syllable name be enough? Surely, two Juns are better than one. And so the Jun-Jun, Bingbing and Bongbong stream began, spreading like wildfire to Jing Jing, Tintin, Tonton, Mon-Mon, Raf-Raf, Cri-Cri and Cla-Cla. Tingting was a '40s early bird.

The winningest name of the '60s was Patricia and its nicknames—Pat, Patty, Patsy, Trish, Trisha, Trixie, Triccie (with some leftover Patrings). Durable Patricia is still a favorite today much like Maria was in the '20s and Teresita in the '50s. The latest Patricia nickname is Pixie. Other '60s babies' names and pet names were Cynthia, Nina, Millie, Nataniel, Alexander, Elmer, Adrian, Eileen, Loudette, Nanette, Susie, Neil, Karina, Joy, Lillibeth.

Sixties was also the period when the Russian "ski" was added to nicknames as a form of endearment. And so we had Polski, Netski, Odeteski, Molski, Benitski, Monchiski.

The Pinoy always had a cavalier way with punctuation, especially commas and apostrophes, which are considered decorations, to be placed wherever they looked okay. So we have door's and window's and punctuated names like Carl'os and Bibo'y. That was also the year the Pinoy discovered the creative potential of the letter h and so we had Bhoy, Bhong, Jhon-Jhon, Mhely, Eghai, Rhudy, Geenah, Vhioly, Khikho and Bheibi.

Modern nicknames include fruits: Apples, Peaches, Cherry Pie; other edibles: Coke, Hammy and Eggie; bacteria: Germs; flowers: Rose, Jasmin, Lily, Sampaguita, Daisy; spices: Rosemary, Basil, Pepper, Patis, Maggie; gems: Gemma, Perla, Ruby; animals: Maya, Bunny, Robin, Kitty, Chickie, Swanee, Ratsky; conditions: Rusty, Sandy, Dawn, Sunshine; royalty: Queenie, Princess, Rajo, Dato; dance: Boogie and Chacha; gender: Boysie, Girlie, Butch, Silahis; body parts: Heart, Booba, Pinky; tough names: Barge, Volt, Spike, Blade, Wire, Kidlat.

Indeed, the cause-oriented during the '80s protest years tried to curb such adventurousness by giving their children fighting names like Alab, Revo (for Revolution), Joma, Lean, Red, Gabriela, Makibaka, A.K. (for ak-ak gun). Native names born in the '90s were Ani, Asa, Laya, Mayumi, Alon, Diwa, Kawayan, Agno. *(See table of fashionable current names and nicknames)*

Some tried to make witty combinations with the family names like Isabela Ilagan, Leonor Rivera or Francisco Francisco (jokingly nicknamed Pakiko-kiko). A Mr. Matic named his children Otto Matic and Charis Matic. Lazy ones just named every son Amante Aguiluz.

Sampler of '30s names (A mixture of old and newer names)

Aida
Alberto
Alejandro
Alfonso
Alicia
Alma
Amado
Amando
Amelia
Ana
Andres
Angel
Antonio
Araceli
Armando
Arturo
Asuncion
Aureo
Aurora
Avelino
Barbara
Bella
Benjamin
Bienvenido
Candida
Caridad
Carlitos
Carlos
Carmen
Clara
Conrado
Consuelo
Corazon
Criselda
Deanna
Delfin
Diana
Domingo
Edita
Edith
Edna
Eloisa
Erlinda
Esperanza
Estela
Estrella
Eugenia
Fe
Federico
Felicitas
Fidel
Fides
Gerardo
Gil
Gilberto
Guadalupe
Helen
Imelda
Ines
Isabel
Isidro
Ismael
Jaime
Josefina
Jovita
Laura
Leandro
Leila
Leon
Leonardo
Leticia
Lorenzo
Lucia
Lucio
Luisa
Luz
Lydia
Marcos
Margarita
Matilde
Mercedes
Miguel
Minda
Minerva
Nella
Nestor
Norma
Ofelia
Pacita
Pamela
Pastor
Pedro
Pilar
Priscilla
Rafael
Ramon
Raul
Rebecca
Renato
Ricardo
Roberto
Rolando
Roman
Rosalinda
Rosendo
Rosita
Ruben
Rufina
Salud
Sofia
Susanna
Sylvia
Teodoro
Tirso
Tomas
Veronica
Victoria
Vidal
Violeta
Wilfrido
Yolanda
Yvonne
Zinnia
Zita

Sampler of '30s nicknames

Abe
Alex
Alice
Amy
Anding
Aning
Art
Becky
Beni
Bien
Carlito
Celi
Clarita
Conchita
Connie
Cora
Espie
Fely
Glory
Isabelita
Jake
Jerry
Jessie
Jimmy
Josie
Larry
Letty
Lita
Lory
Lupe
Lyds
Marquitos
Maurita
Mely
Menchu
Minnie
Nick
Nilo
Offie
Paching
Paeng
Peng
Pete
Pocholo
Ponching
Rene
Ricky
Rolly
Rory
Rosy
Sid
Sofie
Sony
Tente
Tina
Tito
Tommy
Veron
Vicky
Virgil
Yoly

Fashionable current names and nicknames

Ala
Andrea
Andrew
Angela
Anica
Argee
Arnel
Aya
Catherine
Celine
Christian
Christina
Dana
Dennis
Dinky
Eric
Erica
Fatima
Hannah
Ian
Ida
Ina
Isa
Iya
Iyo
James
Jason
Jenny
Jeremy
Jerson
Jimboy
Jo-ann
John Paul
Justin
Kai
Katrina
Katya
Kenneth
Kevin
Krista
Larissa
Lia
Lizette
Lorenz
Lyle
Malta
Ma-an
Mara
Mark
Matthew
Mi-ann
Michael
Mico
Miggy
Miles
Nicholas
Nico
Oliver
Papo
Pipo
Rachel
Ria
Risa
Rodel
Rodney
Roxanne
Sara
Sari
Steph
Tanya
Tifanny
Tonette
Troy
Valerie
Vincent
Wendell
Zsazsa
J.R. and all other initial nicknames

The new kids on the block

There was a noticeable difference in the name game within the last decade. For one, many nicknames are now proudly bannered as first names—Chelo, Rina, Pennie, Dolly, Jeannie, Randy, Rod, Richie. Male nicknames are now shared by girls such as Alex, Andy, Chris, Frankie, Gabby, Kim, Micky, Sam.

Generic names for kids began with Totoy and Neneng, Toto and Nining, Duduy and Inday. With the Spanish influence it became Nena and occasionally Neno, and with the American influence Girl and Boy, Girlie and Boyet. The Filipino had Bubut and Buboy, Boying, Toti and Nini. There is, of course, the perennial Baby which has evolved into Babs, Baba, the French Babette and the Italian Bambi (for Filipino Bambinos and Bambinas).

Today Frenchified names are fashionable. Grade school kids are now named Michelle, Francesca, Nicole, Giselle, Denise, Mimi, Danielle, Francine, Gigi. And Italiannis too—Pia, Pio, Gia, Gina, Gino, Giannina, Bea, Paulo, Joanna, Carlo, Bianca, Marco, Isabella, Nico, Nikki, Rosanna, Enzo, Micaela.

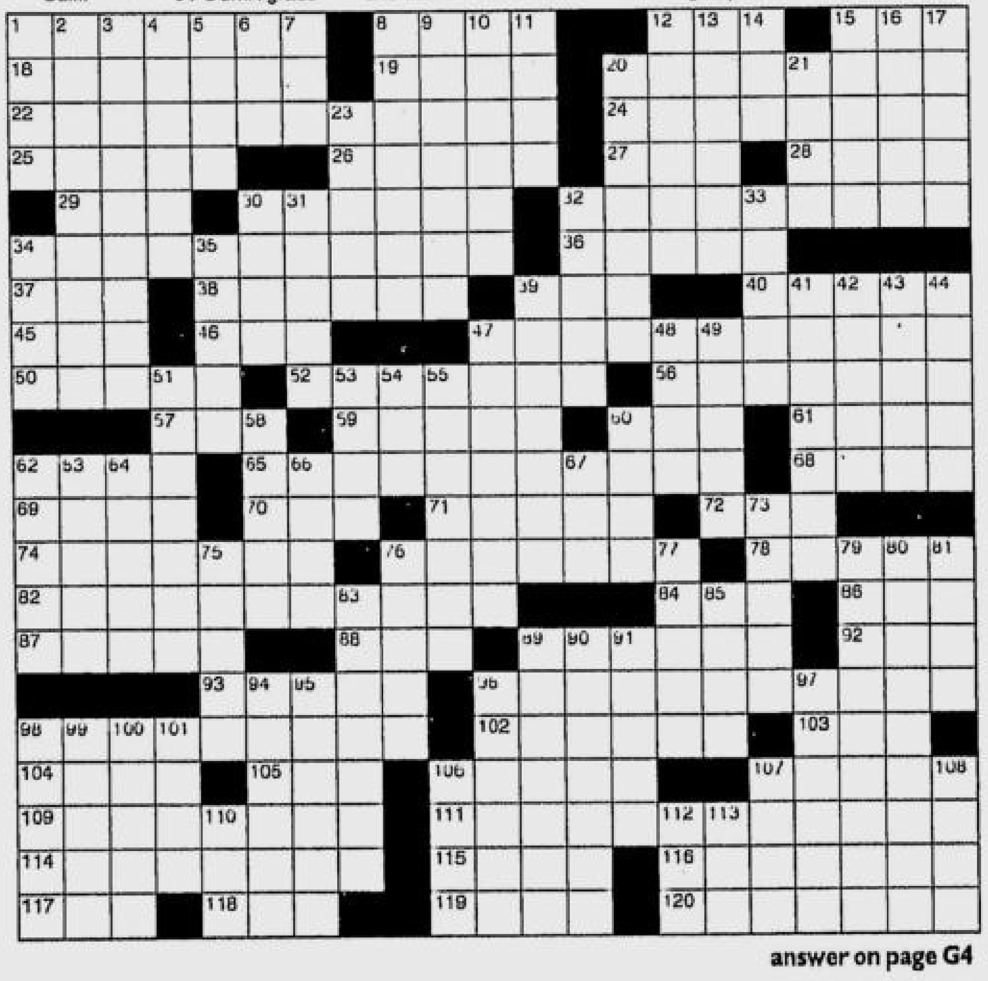
It's been a long way from Zosima to Zsa Zsa.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo FOUR IN A ROW

ACROSS
1 Brooklyn or Queens, e.g.
8 Playbill listing
12 Dr.'s study
15 Homer Simpson's dad
18 Showed clearly
19 Detest
20 Eating nooks
22 Auction off Andean animals again?
24 Really begs
25 Actress Garbo
26 Leaning
27 Cat's coat
28 Sector
29 Unrefined
30 Between — and Charybdis
32 Have uncanny psychic vision?
34 Forbidden tea?
36 Big name in PC chips
37 "How was — know?"
38 Harm
39 USN officer
40 "Yabba- — -doo!"
45 Neighbor of Calif.
46 Soft & — (deodorant brand)
47 Scrape a moray dry?
50 Jane Eyre's pupil
52 Clay who became Muhammad Ali
56 Gossip columnist Rona
57 "— longa, vita brevis"
59 Caribbean resort isle
60 Sedan, e.g.
61 Cognizant of
62 Part of P.O.
65 Elate actor Bridges?
68 Buzzing swarm
69 Poker payment
70 Kathie — Gifford
71 Marketing ploy
72 Prefix with dermis
74 Successful student
76 Mug parts
78 Group of eight
82 Myopic cartoon character reacting to fireworks?
84 USMA grads
86 "— Little Teapot"
87 Trial typist
88 TV spots
89 Elevator alternative
92 — hall (campus hangout)
93 Come forth
96 Architect Saarinen the prizewinner?
98 Cultivate a grassy plain?
102 Whirling mass
103 Tobacco product, in slang
104 Dunkable cookie
105 Vermont hrs.
106 Dagger handles
107 Tossed
109 Online fact file
111 Give Mrs. Chaplin a lot of hype?
114 Reduced to a mist
115 To — (just so)
116 Need for speed
117 Kyoto cash
118 Shuteye site
119 Sublet
120 Trumpets and tubas

DOWN
1 Floating ice hunk
2 Appraised too highly
3 Transcend
4 Combination punch
5 Calif. college
6 Salon goo
7 "Good" cholesterol
8 Record of an online gabfest
9 Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
10 "Hogan's Heroes" setting
11 See 17-Down
12 Stately dance in triple meter
13 Main meal part
14 Augsburg article
15 Space Invaders producer
16 — nut (kernel chewed in tropical regions)
17 With 11-Down, blue-book exam
20 Protection
21 Split
23 Eric Clapton hit
30 Skyrocket
31 Funnyman
32 Skull cavity
33 Senior
34 Rocker Turner
35 More curious
39 Was the same as
41 Like vigorous exercise
42 Fashion designer Geoffrey
43 Singer Midler
44 Female choir members
47 Brother, e.g.
48 Online auction site
49 En — (fencing cry)
51 After a while
53 Swiss river
54 — Lanka
55 Brunei bigwigs
58 "Great" pope of 440-61
60 Fir fruit
62 Date trees
63 — a time (singly)
64 Put on, as a play
66 Day saver
67 Adjective for Abner
73 Outlaw-hunting group
75 Dieter's restaurant request, perhaps
76 Pitcher — Nomo
77 Hit an ice patch
79 Tools in car trunks
80 Coming-out
81 Tortilla treat
83 Ghost-ridden
85 "Jurassic Park" dinosaur, for short
89 Bloated
90 Petite pie
91 Dilettantish
94 Real lowlife
95 Back-talked
96 Fly a plane
97 Canyon comebacks
98 Before tomorrow
99 Fuming
100 Admit
101 Rich soil
106 Letter-shaped construction beam
107 Gaius' garb
108 Methods
110 Baby's mealtime wear
112 Center of activity
113 Bobby the Bruin



answer on page G4

A glutton for punishment

From page G4

somewhere, in the accounting ledger of someone in the universe.

If you feel guilty and horrible—it is already your conscience pounding at the doors of your mind. It's probably time you rethink your ways.

Age 35 is not a hopeless number. You yourself said marriage was not a guarantee of bliss. Get up, move on and start throwing out all the garbage around you.

You may begin with this creep who has the audacity, temerity and gall to make marriage plans while all the while having you on the side.

You're just a doormat to him. Is that the life you want?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

WINNERS in the "Conquer Your Fear" promo of the Bert Lozada Swim School and the Philippine Daily Inquirer received their prizes recently. In photo are Leni Delmiendo, Speedo marketing manager; six of the promo winners; Bert Lozada, BLSS president and founder; and Angelo Lozada, BLSS managing director.

Cebu Celebration!

The "Queen City of the South" resonated with fun and fantastic prizes as Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA made its way to Cebu! In this second to the last leg of Talk 'N Text's 6th anniversary celebration, the Cebu City Sports Complex served as gracious host for the games, raffles, and variety shows. As the Talk 'N Text Barkada Vhong Navarro, Marvin Agustin, Dominic Ochoa, Tuesday Vargas with guest Maureene Larrazabal graced the ceremonies, bands such as Jr. Kilat and Sugarfree showcased their brand of rock for all of Cebu to see. So many celebrities, so many games, and even more prizes were given away! Talk 'N Text truly rocked in Cebu City!

TALK 'N TEXT
ANNIVER SAYA!
6TH YEAR

Talk 'N Text barkada celebrates 6 amazing years

Cebu welcomes Talk 'N Text Anniversaya with a colorful parade

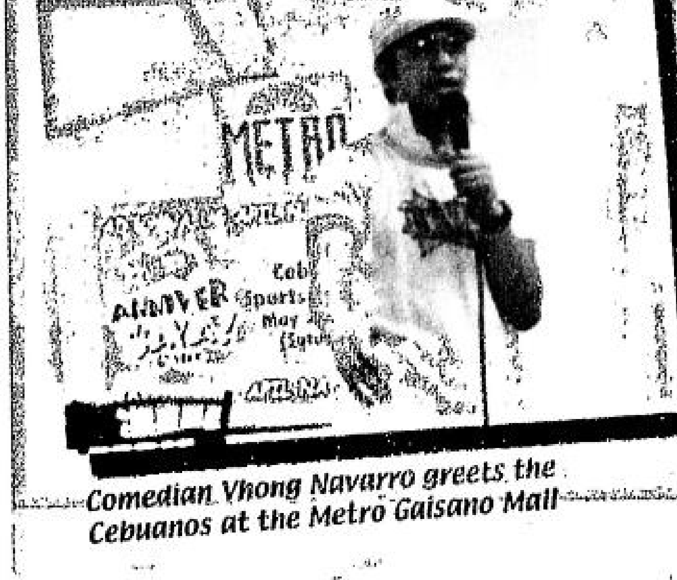
ADTO NA UG APIL NA SA KALINGAWAN

Vhong, Dominic, Tuesday and Maureene in an Anniversaya pose during the press conference

People enjoyed running into the velcro wall

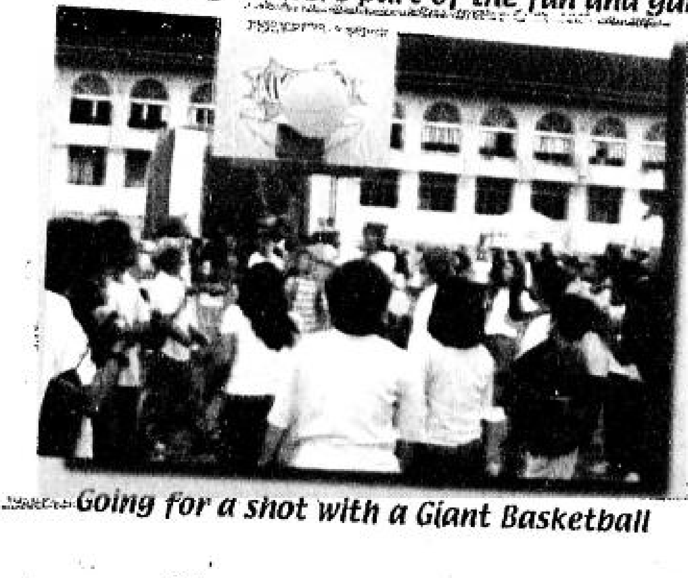
Cebuanos packed the Cebu City Sports Complex

Stick Fights were part of the fun and games



Comedian Vhong Navarro greets the Cebuanos at the Metro Gaisano Mall

The Laffline Comedians were a huge hit in Cebu



Going for a shot with a Giant Basketball

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1039, Series of 2006

A glutton for punishment

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I'm not sure if I'm doing the right thing but I really need to release this pain, which is actually self-inflicted.

I'm still carrying a torch for my ex-boyfriend. It's crazy because it has been four years. I met him in 2002 after we became text mates.

We decided to meet after talking for a couple of weeks over the phone. I liked his voice. It was sensual. He spoke good English. He could also sing.

We met though he revealed he had a girlfriend who was in the United States that time. There was instant attraction. We kissed that day and, on the third day, we did it. Yes, we had sex and it was great.

When his girlfriend came back he dropped me like a hot potato but I let him give me "crumbs." We still kept in touch, still had sex.

I felt good and bad at the same time. To get even with him, I even called up his girlfriend and told her of our sexcapades. They broke up but reconciled later.

When this guy and I continued our sexual encounters, I called up the girl again. They broke up again and then reconciled. They are getting married next year. We're still in touch despite everything.

I hate myself because I know I'm just prolonging my agony. I've given myself all sorts of advice, some of them I read in your column.

I guess it would help to actually hear those sharp words from you. I like the way you say things, straight and without sugar-coating.

I am 35 and I'm afraid to be alone even though I know getting married is not a guarantee of bliss.

AGNES

Ever heard the word "masochist?" You're actually enjoying this very painful game that you and this guy are playing.

It's exciting playing games—you huff and puff and sweat and laugh and feel extremely exhilarated. Much as it is "fun," why do you have to involve the innocent girlfriend of this creep in this horrible charade?

You could have been at least charitable enough to be quiet about it.

Why be cruel? Why call her at all? Have you also turned into a sadist? What crime has she committed to deserve such bombardment of hurt?

She was already there when you and this guy started flirting via mobile phone. She hasn't done anything to you so why are you inflicting this pain on her?

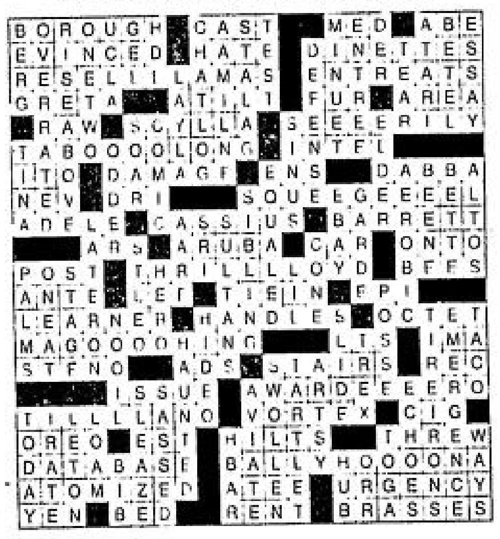
If you wanted to get even with your boyfriend, hurt him, not her! What you've done is unconscionable and really reprehensible.

If you just went on with this backdoor affair with him, it would still be okay in theory, considering that this guy is single and up for grabs. But you've taken delight in hurting an innocent party just to get back at this communal boyfriend!

Remember, the life we live is really physics in action—karma, as we know it. A toll will be exacted sometime,

A GLUTTON/ G2

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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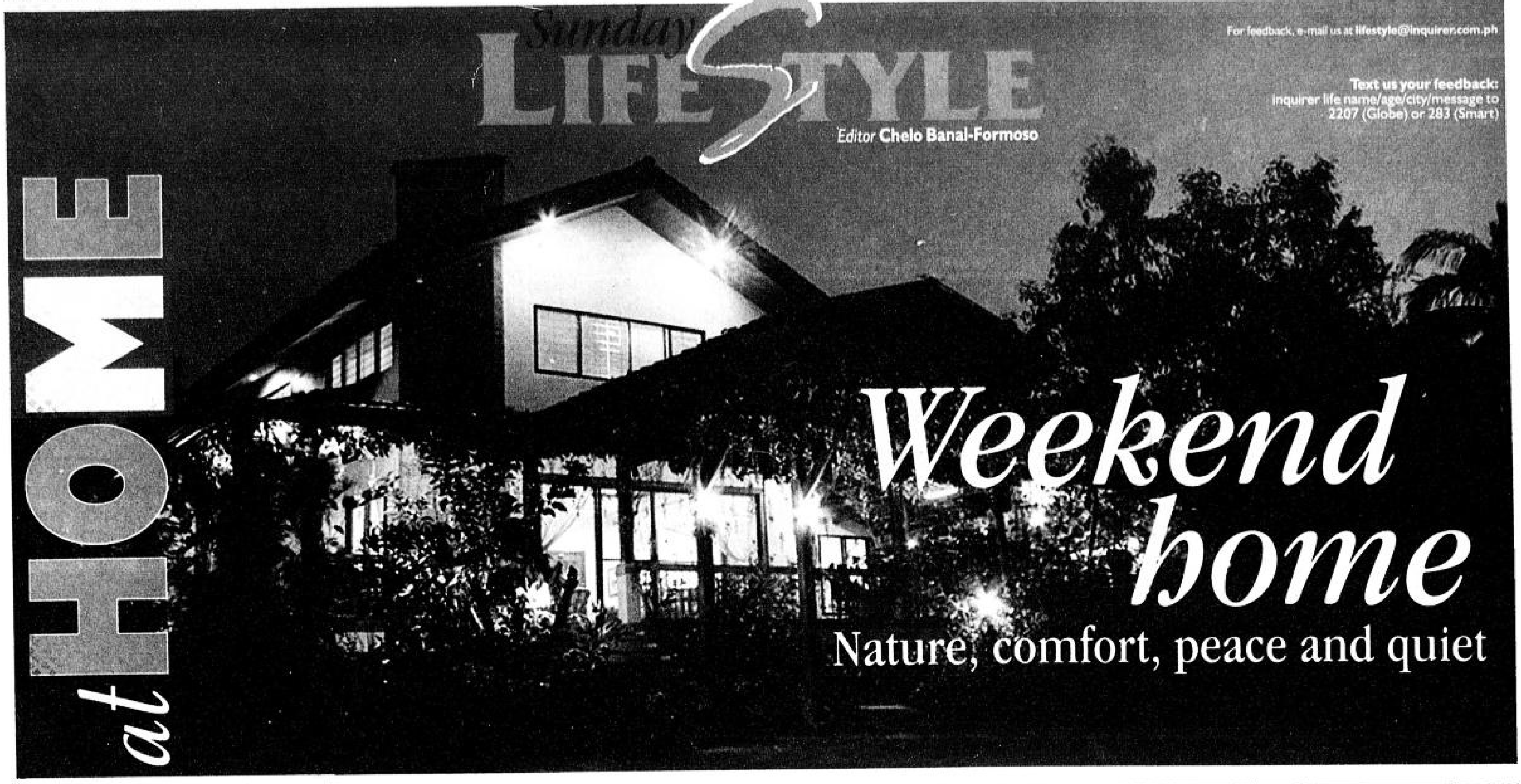
at HOME

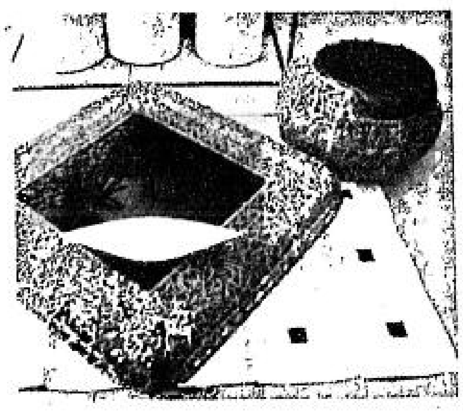


Weekend home

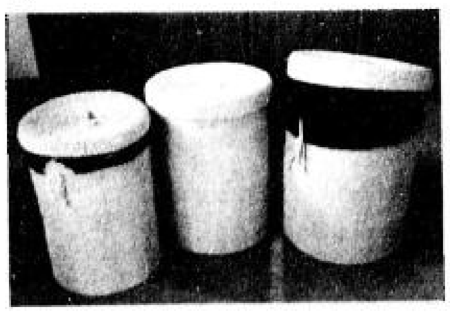
Nature, comfort, peace and quiet

Winding down at a coffee farm /H2

Summerize your home all year round /H4



Romancing the abaca at Duo Living /H7



Brittany

THE MANSIONS OF
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I'll go back to Georgia, cause that's where I belong
–from the song Georgia On My Mind

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Brittany
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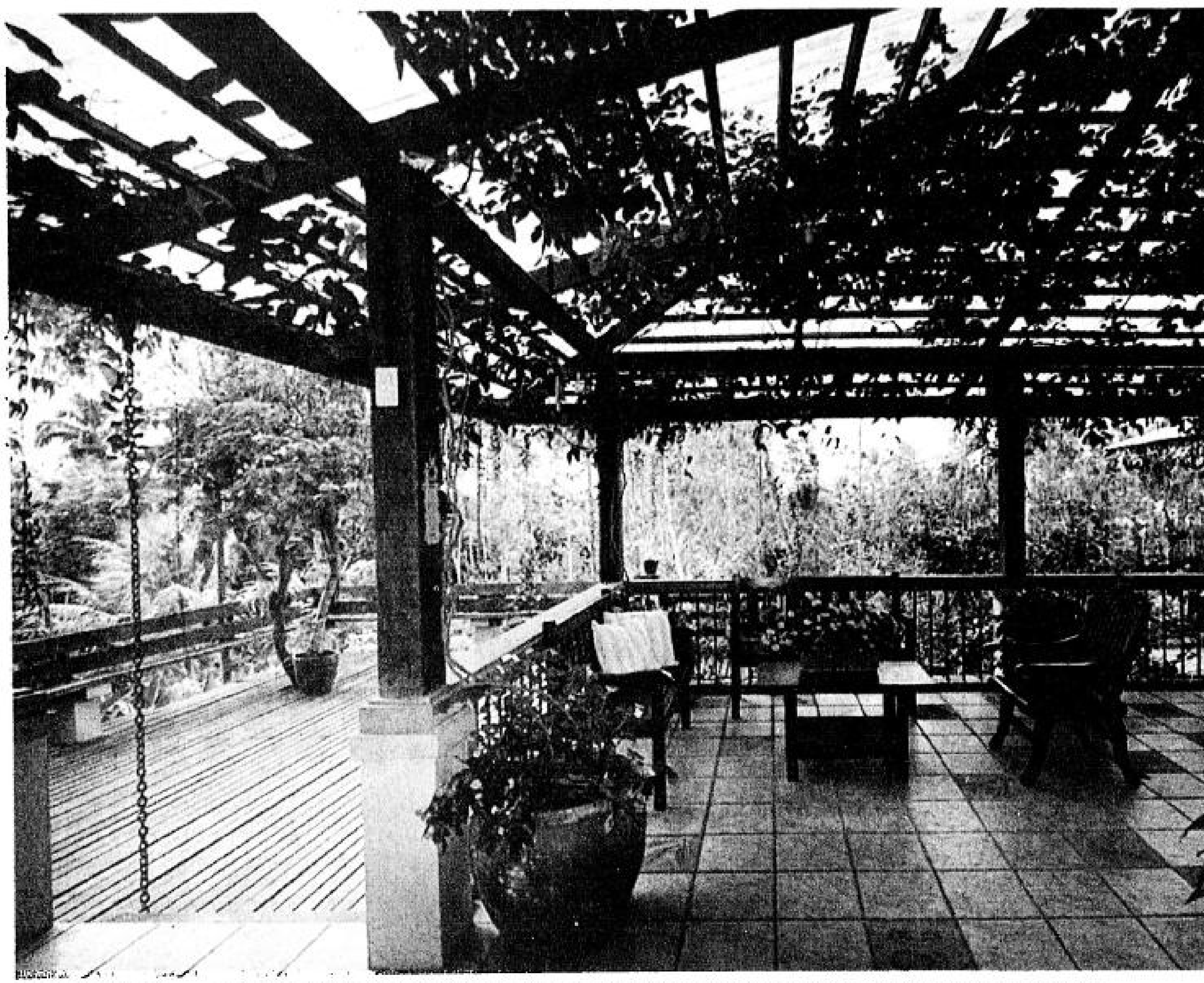
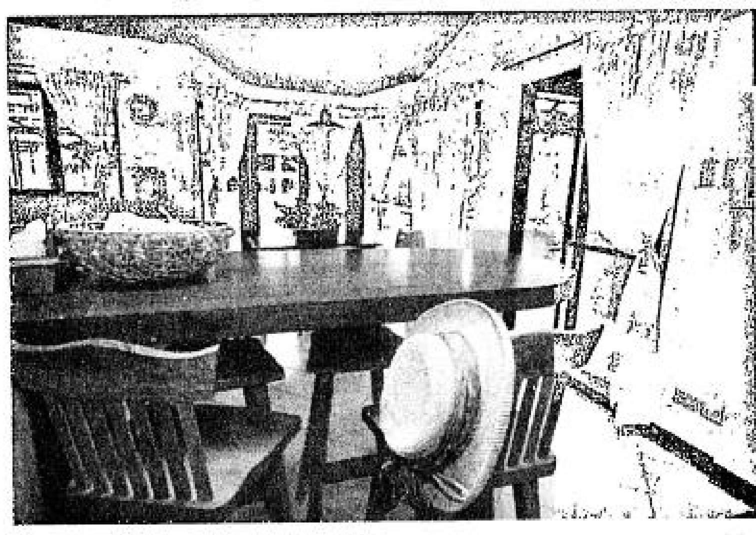

INSIDE OUT. The porch is the favorite in the Canoys' weekend farm in Mendez, Cavite. Extending into an open deck of old wood, it is big enough to house a party for 30.

LANGUOROUS LIFE. Sit still on this wooden armchair in the Canoy patio and enjoy a front-row view of the wonders of nature.

BE OUR GUEST. The Canoys' guest rooms are comfy at best, each with a high ceiling, a lot of space, soft twin beds and fluffy pillows, its own toilet and bath, and a living Eden just outside the door.


PLACES TO EAT IN. Aside from "vegetating," eating is an irresistible pleasure at the farm. There are so many places for dining, such as a barbecue area, a kitchen table, a dining room, a porch dining set, and this counter, which is just the right size for Desi's dairy indulgences.

COFFEE AND PATIENCE

Weekends at the Canoy farm

Text by Aa Patawaran
Photos by Menchit Ongpin

AFTER BUYING 2.2 HA OF A tangle of woods in Mendez, Cavite, barely 10 minutes from Tagaytay, it took Eric and Desi Canoy over three years to decide what to do with the property.

What the couple bought was originally a coffee plantation left to be overgrown with wild shrubs, weed and trees, with the exception of a few areas reserved for cash crops like bananas and *chayote*.

"This was a jungle," recalls Eric. "You needed a bolo to cut through the underbrush."

Open house

Although for a while the Canoys appeared to be torn between a beach property and a farmhouse, Eric knew he was bound to buy the latter. "My wife grew up in a 120-ha farm in Cagayan de Oro," he says. "Also, early in our marriage, we lived in Ayala Alabang, where she had a huge garden to keep her in her element."

First to rise on the property was a gazebo spacious enough for a small party yet intimate enough for lounging around. Replete with a kitchen, a grill area and a toilet, it was in the beginning like a clearing in the forest, a shelter from the wild. No sooner had the roof of *anahaw* been put in place than Desi began to plant the seeds of what has now become a conversation piece in the gazebo: the emerald creepers, otherwise known as the jade vine (*strongylodon macrobotrys*), with its bloom clusters of aquamarine hanging up to three feet from its thick twines on the ceiling. The jade vine, however, shares the spotlight as well as the ceiling with a wilder variety of creepers: the trumpet vine (*thumbergia mysorensis*), an exotic species of climbers that is said to grow fast enough to swallow a house in no time. Its cousin, the Bengal clock vine (*thumbergia grandiflora*), also steals the scene with its blue-mauve racemes.

The Mendez lot needed a major cleanup, but that was all the Canoys felt they had to do with the property. Soon the gardener as well as the farmer in Desi was in full force, traveling from Manila more and more often to bring in more species of vines, shrubs, bushes, herbs, flowering plants, fruit trees and species of hardwood, in consultation with an expert on vegetation from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

The increasing frequency of Desi's day trips to Mendez was all to the secret delight of her husband, who loves building houses. Her compulsion to apply her green thumb on the farm more often was just the excuse Eric needed to build a home on the property. With the help of their longtime architect Chi Chi Vasquez, a Tuscan-inspired country house was built, which later took the shape and form of the Canoys' way of life—open, unassuming, and with more and more room for family and friends. The house, originally a two-bedroom affair, with a loft big enough to accommodate 10 mattresses, has just been expanded with two more guest rooms and a basement with enough room for twice as many mattresses as the loft can accommodate. The house as well as the farm are, of course, to this very day, a work in progress.

HOTHOUSE FLOWERS. Eric and Desi Canoy at their weekend farm in Mendez, Cavite

Porch living

Despite the size of the house, all of 500 sq m, it takes a backseat to the lush greenery, especially since the front porch is draped with hanging flowering vines, particularly the yellow and reddish brown blooms of *thumbergia mysorensis*. The porch is the piece de resistance of the Canoy weekend home, sparsely furnished with *molave* patio benches and an outdoor dining set made also of this wood species whose durability has made it a figure of speech for a man of sterling qualities. After all, the veranda appears full enough with the surrounding flowers and foliage, replete with the symphony of birds, insects and breeze that makes it a favorite of any weekend resident.

Even the flooring on the porch is designed to blend in with the outdoors, with Vigan tiles alternating with concrete squares whose imprints of leaves from Desi's garden provide the effect of fallen leaves on the porch all year round. The porch also extends into a roofless deck of old, unvarnished wood, taken from old houses, on which to catch the sun.

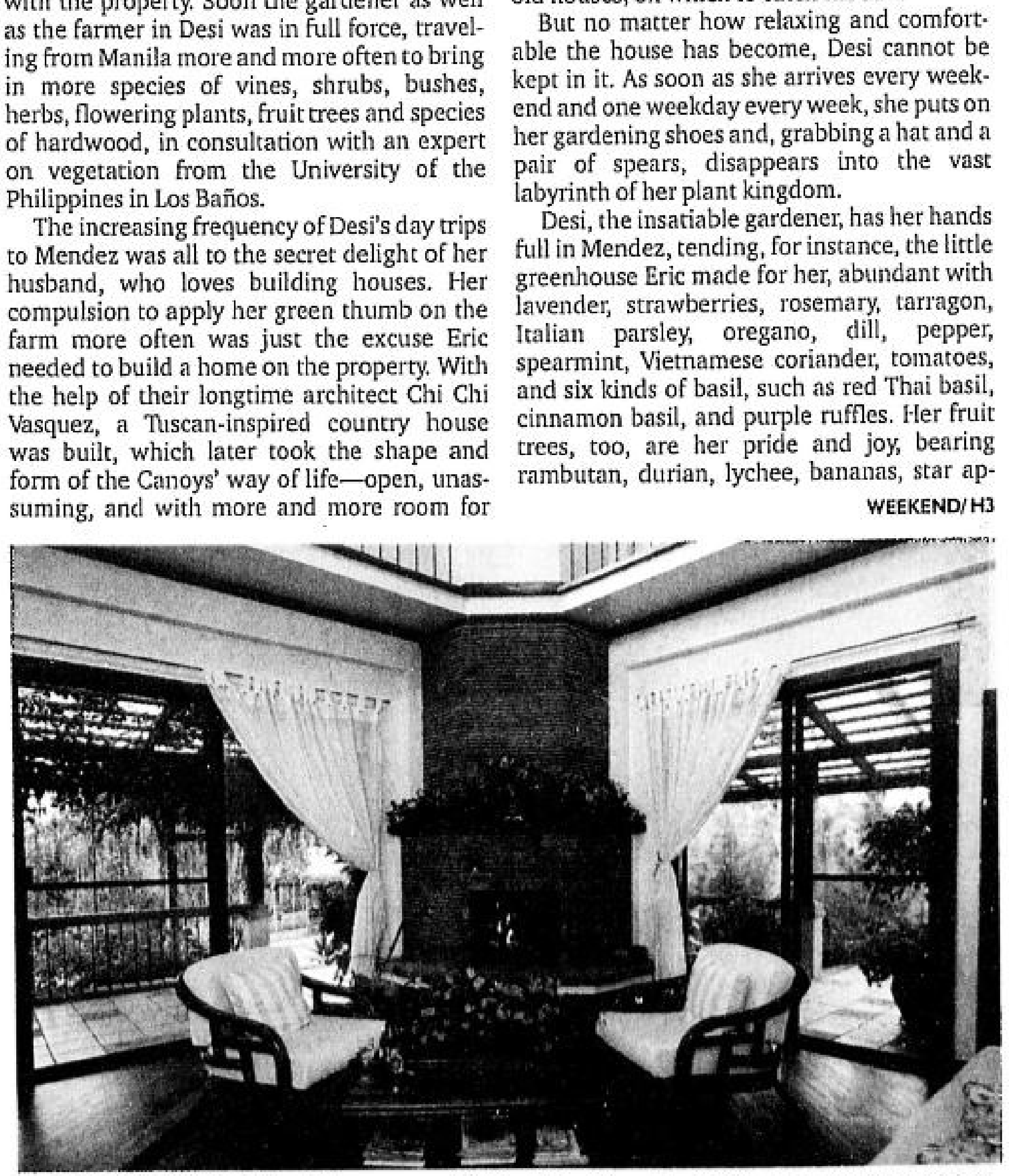
But no matter how relaxing and comfortable the house has become, Desi cannot be kept in it. As soon as she arrives every weekend and one weekday every week, she puts on her gardening shoes and, grabbing a hat and a pair of spears, disappears into the vast labyrinth of her plant kingdom.

Desi, the insatiable gardener, has her hands full in Mendez, tending, for instance, the little greenhouse Eric made for her, abundant with lavender, strawberries, rosemary, tarragon, Italian parsley, oregano, dill, pepper, spearmint, Vietnamese coriander, tomatoes, and six kinds of basil, such as red Thai basil, cinnamon basil, and purple ruffles. Her fruit trees, too, are her pride and joy, bearing rambutan, durian, lychee, bananas, star ap-

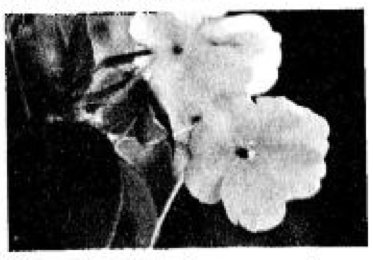
WEEKEND/ H3

MORNINGS IN MENDEZ. Start the day with homegrown coffee on this *molave* dining table on the porch of the Canoy weekend home.

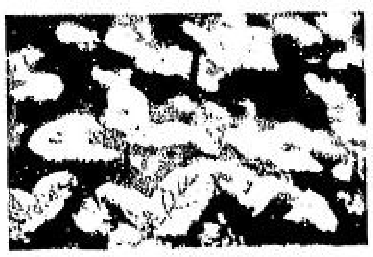
THE LIGHT IS ALWAYS GREEN. Abundant in nature, green signifies health, growth and renewal. No wonder a weekend at the Canoy farm is all it takes to revive spirits worn out from the stresses of city life.


THROUGH THE FIRE. The living room, with its old-fashioned brick fireplace, is often used on weekends for therapy, especially when the cool breeze blowing from Tagaytay makes it appropriate to build a hypnotic fire.

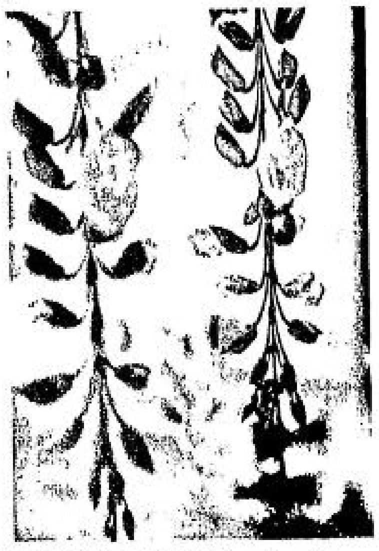
PURPLE RUFFLES. The dark, crinkled and puckered leaves of this rich, spicy, anise-like purple basil often revert to green if not grown in the right shade with ample nutrients, moist soil, and tender loving care.



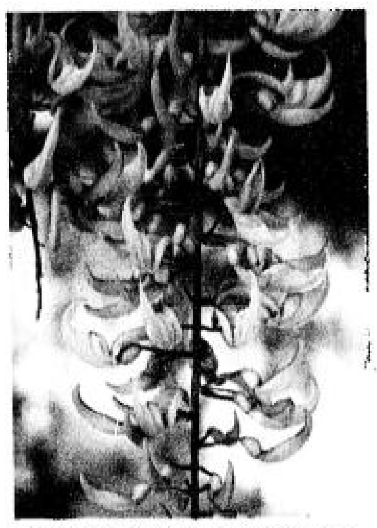
BUSY LIZZIE. The nectar of *Impatiens wallerana* or patience is so sugary sweet it is a magnet for garden insects like butterflies.



SAGE OF BETHLEHEM. Native to Europe, spearmint leaves have a characteristic sweetness that flavors cold drinks and makes a good mint sauce.

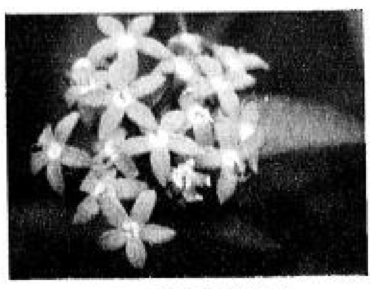


TRUMPET VINE. *Thumbergia mysorensis* drapes the Canoy farmhouse in a curtain of yellow and reddish-brown blooms.



FLEUR-DE-JADE. Long hanging racemes of jade vine provide a blush of aquamarine in the gazebo, the entertainment area.

MEDITATIONS ON A LOTUS. For thousands of years, the lotus flower has symbolized spiritual enlightenment. On Desi's pond, it floats, still and silent.



LOW MAINTENANCE. The bushy pink star cluster, highly tolerant of heat, less-than-perfect soil conditions, and pests, blooms all year round.

INSECT ON TRUMPETS. A grasshopper strikes a pose on a trumpet vine.

ITALIAN FLATLEAF. A favorite of traditional chefs and a staple in discerning kitchens, this variety of parsley is harder to find than its cousin, curly parsley.

SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP. The petite blue star-shaped flowers of forget-me-not, a symbol of friendship, are as welcoming as the Canoy family that keeps them abloom.

Weekends at the Canoy farm

From page H2

ples or *kaimito*, velvet apples or *mabolo*, guavas, avocados, lanzones, jackfruit or *langka*, soursop or *guyabano*, lemons and even aromatic coçonuts. Desi also has mahogany, eucalyptus, cloves, laurel, macadamia nut trees, pine trees, cypresses, citronella grass, and an olive tree flown in from Italy that, quite acclimatized in Cavite weather, is now showing great promise of bearing fruit in the immediate future. To Eric, their farm-grown coffee is among the many great pleasures of mornings at the Mendez farm.

Language of flowers

Needless to say, it's not all work for Desi. She stops and smells the flowers, of which she has so many, including her favorite, patience (*impatiens wallerana*) or busy lizzie, whose nonstop blossoms allow her garden as well as a few nooks and crannies of her house to explode in a rainbow of pink, rose, white, orange, scarlet, violet and burgundy.

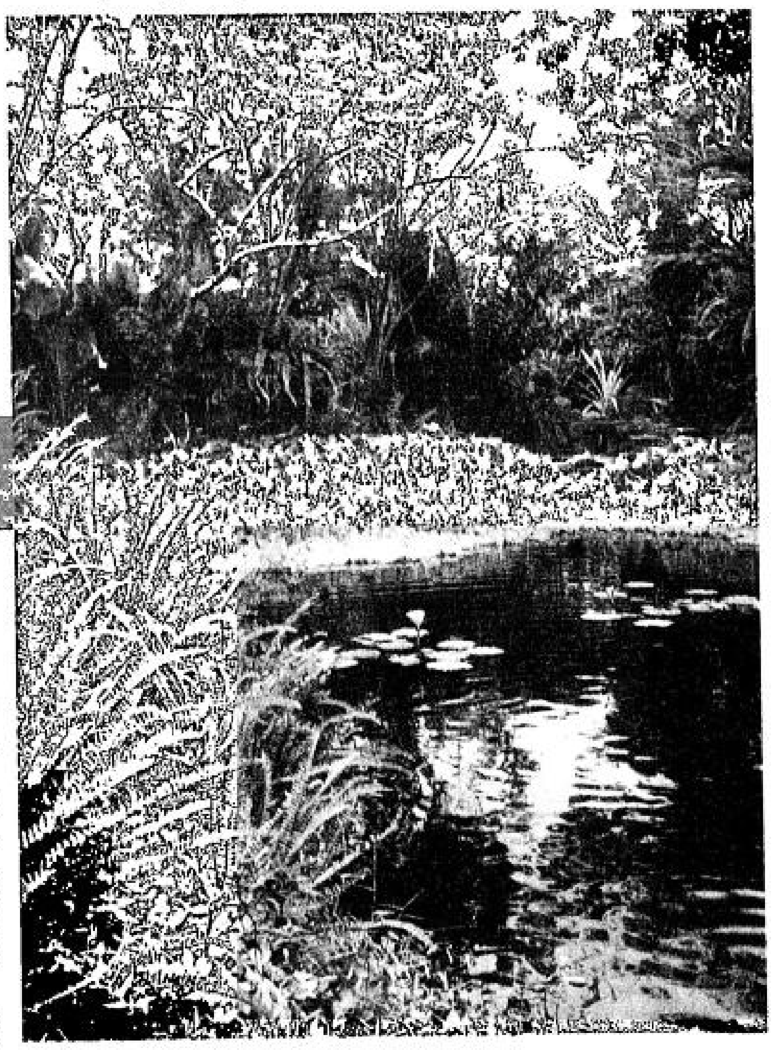
At dusk, it is time to breathe in the Lady of the Night, so named because, odorless during the daylight hours, it releases its jasmine-like perfume in the air within 10 seconds after sundown. Indeed, if there is such a thing as the language of flowers, the Canoy farm is multilingual, with so many varieties such as sampaguita, Nicaraguan jasmine, birds of paradise, lotuses and fragrant rangoon creepers articulating the wonders of life.

No wonder, according to Eric, the Canoy family is making it mandatory to spend all long weekends in Mendez.

"The challenge now is to come up with a name for this place," he says. The farm is a universe on its own, with two ponds, big and small, swarming with red tilapia to the delight of those in the mood for fishing as well as grilling fish for lunch or dinner. An animal farm also features native pigs as well as turkey and chickens. At the Canoy farm, there is practically no need to go to the marketplace to have food on the table.

After nightfall, Desi is in the kitchen, her other favorite place in the farm. With relish, she sips fresh carabao's milk from an old English teacup and dips a small slice of butter-cake into the milk before putting it in her mouth. A lover of dairy, particularly of cheeses, Desi is about to make another dream come true. It is only a matter of time before her purchase of goats is delivered to Mendez.

"And soon I can produce my own goat cheese, too," she muses, drowning another piece of cake into her cup of carabao's milk and dreaming up all the other produce of a family farm.



ON RED POND. Swarming with red tilapia and lush with waterlilies, the Canoys' manmade pond makes the farm perfect for fishing, grilling, picnics, and quiet, meditative moments.

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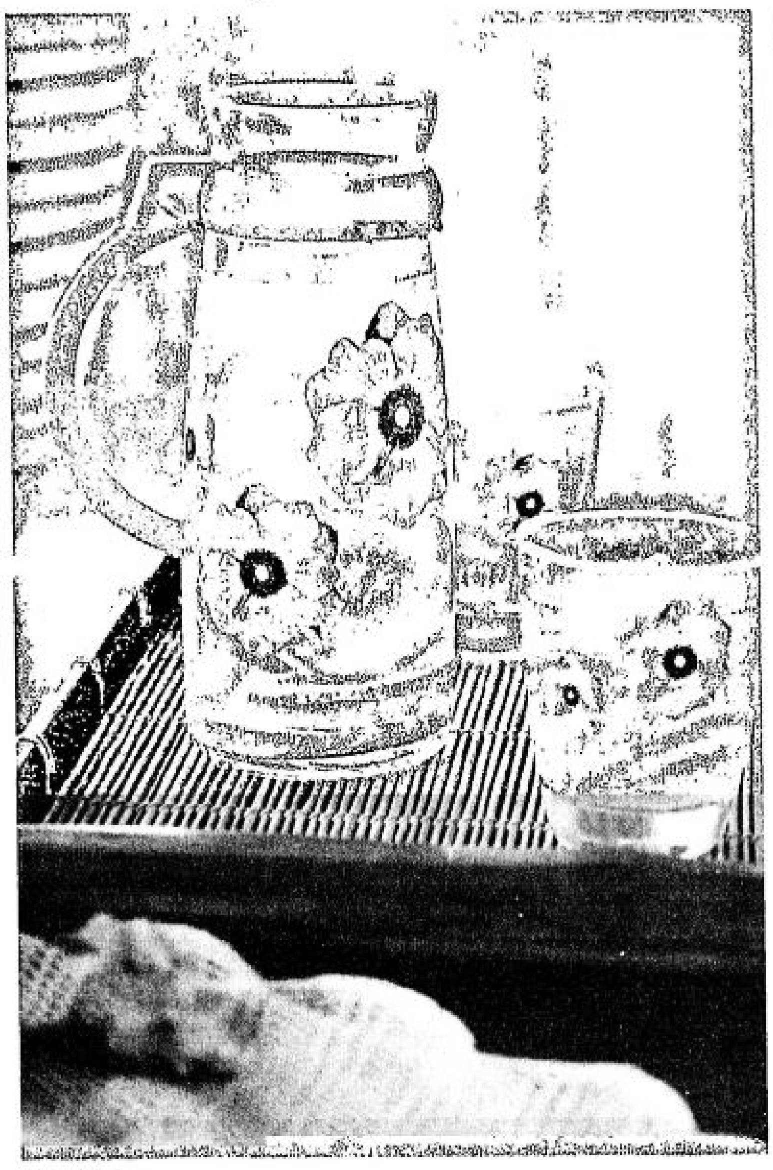
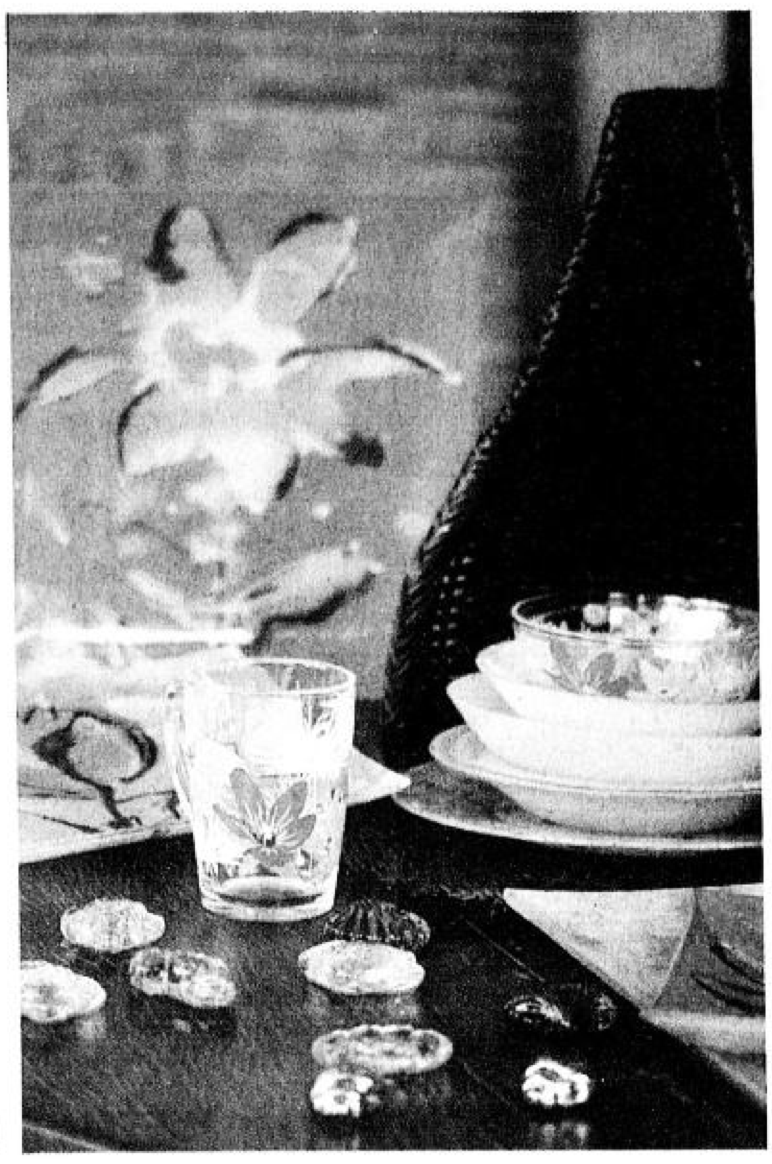
ART OF LANGUOR. Sometimes the best thing to do is nothing at all. Raffia pillows for lounging, dining and entertaining, from Kish



A DRINK OF LEMONADE. When the sun is up, constantly refresh yourself. Maison set glassware with fruit prints in pink and red on a bamboo tray, all from Crossings Home Department; wicker inlay vase, from Kish

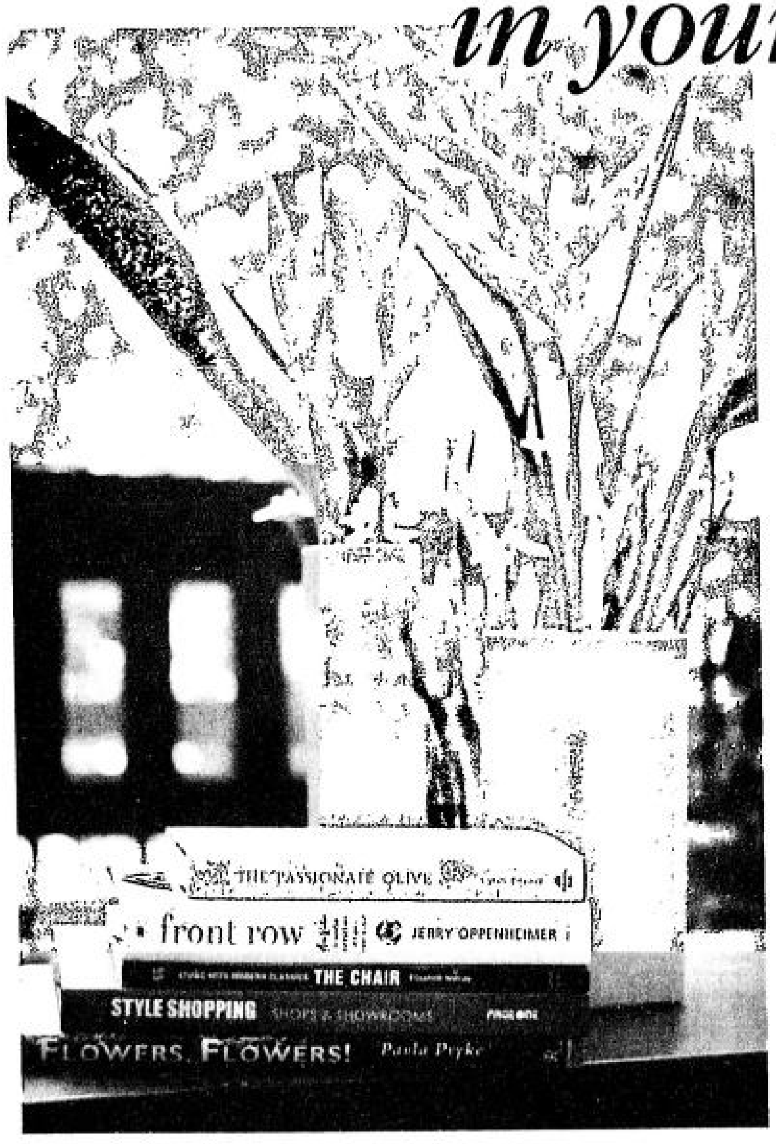


AL FRESCO. Have a summer picnic right at home, with platter holder by Mara Coscolluela and Kirby Quintal, from Kish; orange and yellow Luminarc "Flowers and Foliage" dining set in clear glass, green and red; glass fish, sea shells and sea horses decor, all from Crossings

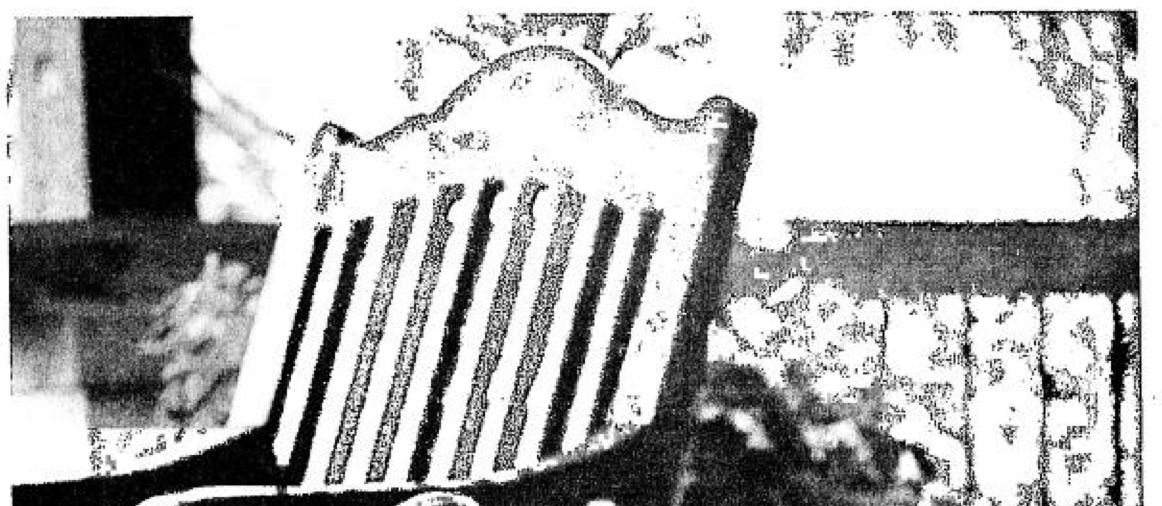
Sun and fun
in your home

The bright, sunshiny days of the past few months are soon giving way to the rainy season, but here's how to keep sun and fun in your home, in a country blessed with eternal summer interrupted only by brief periods of rain

PHOTOGRAPHED AT ERIC AND DESI CANOY'S WEEKEND HOME IN MENDEZ, CAVITE

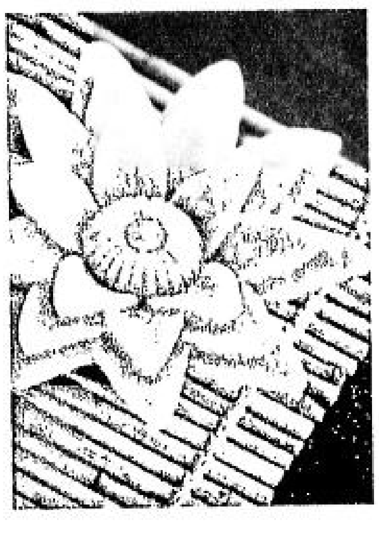


SUMMER READS. On a sunny day, curl up with some light reading, some gossip and a few tips on designer life: "The Passionate Olive: 101 Things to Do with Olive Oil" by Carol Firenze; "Front Row: Anna Wintour, The Cool Life and Hot Times of Vogue's Editor in Chief" by Jerry Oppenheimer; "The Chair" by Elizabeth Wihide; "Style Shopping: Shops and Showrooms"; and "Flowers, Flowers!" by Paul Pryke, all from National Book Store. MHT vases in bright orange from Crossings



QUILT COUNTRY. Other than the beach, the best place to spend the summer is in the country. Bleached oversized Tahiti basket with red handles, and Indian linen, all from Kish

COLOR IS SERVED. Set a summer table with fresh green, lagoon blue, cherry red and lemon yellow dinnerware from Our Home at SM.

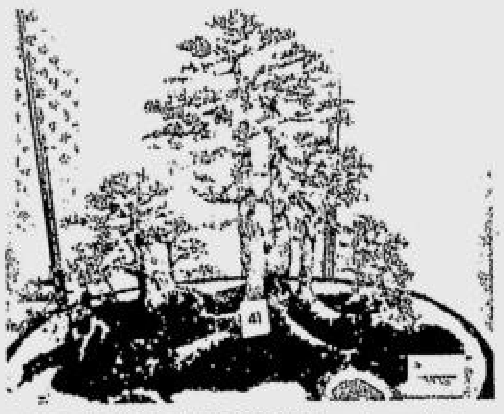


FLOWER FLICKER. Lotus candle in Thai green, from Kish, on bamboo placemat, from Crossings

GREEN LEAVES. Bring the outdoors in with this lovely floral dinnerware set available at Our Home at SM.

Bonsai show opens June 1

WILLI HAHN (left) and Vic Ceballos with a very old bonsai in a recent show in Taipei



THIRTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Kalyos bonsai on rock of Dorie Bernabe

THE PHILIPPINE BONSAI SOCIety Inc. (PBSI) will hold its 3rd National Bonsai Open Exhibition and Competition June 1-8 at the Edsa Shangri-La Mall, Edsa and Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

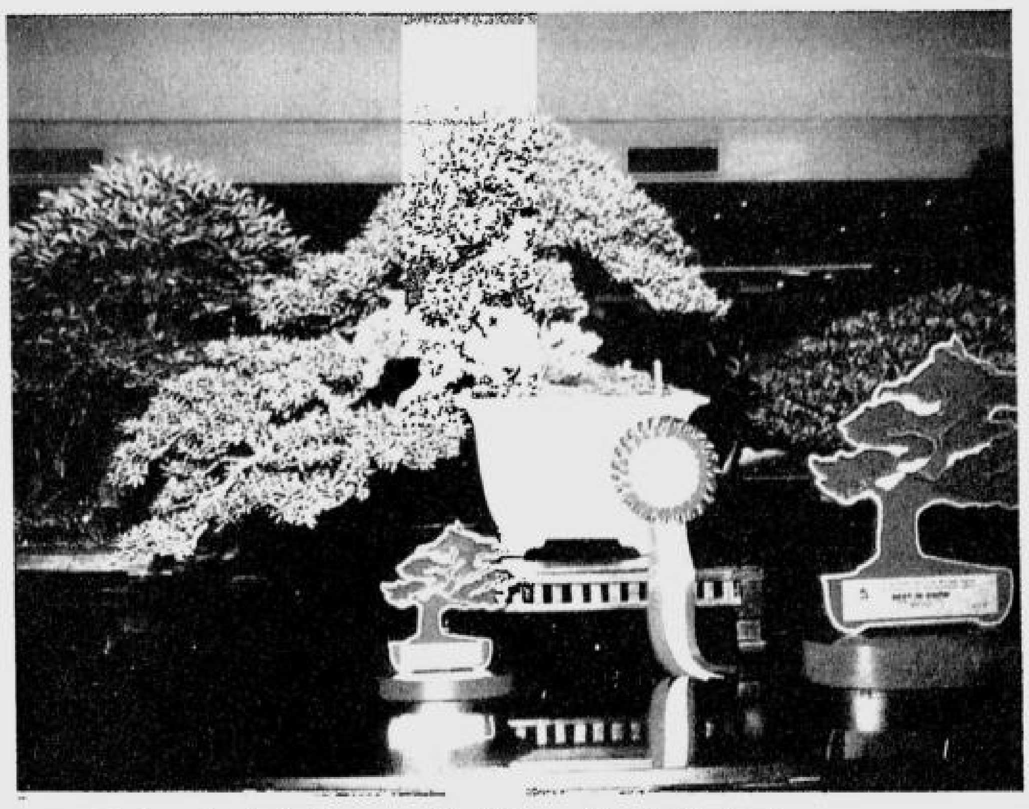
Formal opening on June 1 will be at the Grand Atrium at the second level.

More than 120 creations are expected to be entered in the competition.

Bonsai masters from the National Bonsai Association of Taiwan will conduct workshops/demonstrations on bonsai techniques such as pruning, wiring, potting and other aspects of the art. Admission to the show and lecture/demonstrations is free.

A plants and garden bazaar will be opened at the ground floor of Shangri-La Plaza Mall from May 26 up to the last day of the show. It will offer bonsai materials, pots, tools, fertilizers and other supplies.

The working team for Bonsai Open 2006 consists of PBSI president Bobby Gopiao, overall chair Yumie Gupit, Mike Morden, Teddy Lim, Leo San Miguel, Tonet Gadang, Toto Barcelona, Oding Reyes, Manny de la Cruz, Ogi Uyehara, Dorie Bernabe, Willi Hahn, Lettie Ligon, Bambi Mendoza, Danny Sandoval, Rene Reyes, Fely S. Gupit, and Chat Alejandro.



OVERALL champion in the show owned by PBSI president Bobby Gopiao

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Consumer Brand

MEKENI FOOD CORPORATION SHIFTS TO HIGHER GEAR

Today, May 27, 2006, is regarded as the national debut of Mekeni Food Corporation. The firm puts all and sundry on notice that it is setting its sights on a bigger market share. The launching of its tri-media campaign - covering the country's entire length and breadth - will create an idea environment that the general public will experience a new gastronomic delight in the processed food category. Leading the pack is MEKENI PICNIC HOTDOG. Fortified with Vitamin A, the product has taken both kids and moms by storm.

But how did this phenomenal development begin?

Reeling from the devastation wrought by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, Mekeni Food Corporation was established in Porac, Pmapanga. The initial years were an uphill climb led by the strong-willed patriarch and visionary of the clan - Tatang Felix Garcia. He was ably assisted by his ever-supportive wife Imang Meding Garcia. Back-stopping the determined efforts were 5 sons: Adrian, Pruds, Lito, Nards and Doods.

Predictably, it did not take long that the company's efforts bore fruit.

The company earned the distinction of being bestowed the National Winner award with an "AAA" rating for its meat processing plant for 2 consecutive years: 2004 and 2005. The Department of Agriculture was the lead agency in the awarding of the prestigious and most-coveted plum. It recognized Mekeni Food Corporation as maintaining the highest standard in food safety, environmental protection, hygiene and sanitation. The company even bested the industry's pioneers.

The premiere screening of the TV advertisements is consistent with the accolades Mekeni Food Corporation has received. The 45-second version, titled "Dream Come True," exemplifies the corporate vision. The copy highlights the sectors touched deeply by the efforts of the company. The final frames assure the public that the company will deliver on its promise.

Meanwhile, the 30-second version dramatizes the bandwagon effect of Mekeni Picnic Hotdog as the flagship product. From a single, seemingly detached small group celebration, the viewer eventually witnesses an entire neighborhood enjoying the product. The 2 TV commercials are the opening salvo of an aggressive campaign. Radio and print versions complement and reinforce it.

In the words of patriarch Tatang Felix Garcia: "It is our inherent duty to inform the community that quality products are for everyone, and that they can be made affordable." It is in this sense that the corporate slogan of Mekeni Food Corporation is summarized in 3 words: KASAMA, NAKIKIISA, KABAHAGI.

ADVT.

Mekeni
FOOD CORPORATION
NATIONAL WINNER
"AAA" Meat Processing Plant Category
2004 & 2005
KASAMA. NAKIKIISA. KABAHAGI.

GEORGIA Club's mural on the Sta. Rosa highway from SLEX to Tagaytay reflects the theme inspiration drawn from upper-crust life in the old American south.

New enclave rises in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

WITH ITS WELCOMing, landscape, tall trees and wide expanse, Sta. Rosa, Laguna is the setting for Georgia Club, a new gated residential enclave.

A partnership between Brittany Corporation and MesaLand, Georgia Club provides its residents with what Brittany calls a "lifescape," a thematically influenced, total-living environment.

Another attractive feature of Sta. Rosa is its proximity to urban centers. The residential hub is a mere 45-minute drive from the Makati CBD and a short 25-minute drive from Alabang either through the Sta. Rosa exit of the South Luzon Expressway or the newly opened Asia Brewery/Greenfield exit.

Sta. Rosa is also home to the best educational institutions, from preschools to universities and graduate schools south of Manila such as the Acacia School, De La Salle, St. Scholastica, Don Bosco and Ateneo Graduate School.

University of Sto. Tomas, the oldest university in Asia, will continue its heritage of excellence in education with the soon-to-rise 45-ha campus and teaching hospital in Sta. Rosa.

The new UST complex will boast of a scenic view of Mt. Makiling, thus ensuring an environment that is conducive to learning.

As a rising investment capital in the country, Sta. Rosa is ideal for the residential needs of professionals. It is dubbed as the "Silicon Valley of the Philippines" and IT hub of the South because of the high concentration of electronics and semiconductor companies in the area.

Sta. Rosa is also known as the "Little Detroit of the Philippines" for being home to major car manufacturers and assemblers.

With premier golf courses and country clubs such as the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club (quite near the Canlubang Golf and Country Club) and vacation spots such as Tagaytay and Batangas, Sta. Rosa is perfect for individuals and families who values relaxation and leisure.

Sta. Rosa's natural features complement the Georgia Club—beautiful surroundings, tall trees and sprawling plains that promote a way of life that recognizes family and friendships as integral to life's enjoyment.

Georgia Club boasts of residences that evoke the Old American South with symmetrical façades and gabled roofs, evenly spaced windows, dormers and high ceilings, brightly colored shutters and doors with brass knockers, shaded verandahs and tall windows to permit cool breezes to enter.

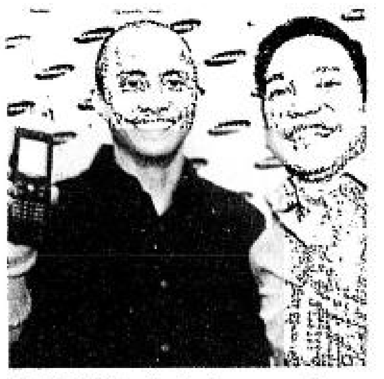
One key design feature is the spacious porch ideal for weekend family breakfasts, curling up quietly with a favorite book, or simply whiling away lazy afternoons. The porch ensures that the tradition of the neighborly visit and chat will be kept alive.

The interiors have open contemporary floor plans that complement an active lifestyle.

Single-detached models are named to evoke the American south. Lot packages at Georgia Club start from a low of P2.5 million while residence and lot packages start from a low of P6.5 million.

Call 8421251 and 8502868, or visit www. brittany-georgiaclub.com.ph.

THE ASHBURY model home of Georgia Club evokes the old American south with its gabled roofs, evenly spaced windows, dormers and high ceilings.



ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez and Samsung's Pen Roque

SAMSUNG president Spencer Shim and Samsung VP ICT Charles Choi

Slimmest, and not by chance

MANILA'S TRENDIEST SET IS IN love with Samsung's newest handheld phone, the Samsung D820, aka Slimagine.

For one extraordinary night, Fiamma, one of the city's top bars, was transformed into Samsung Barcode wherein Manila's most stylish gathered for Samsung's launch of its slimmest, most stylish handheld phone.

Through an audio-visual presentation the crowd was convinced that this new and exciting handheld would definitely fit their chic lifestyles. Demonstrations of the D820 TV output and Bluetooth plus live video streaming were also available for the onlookers. The highlight of the night's activities was a sizzling fashion show where models—in their little black dresses, white cigarette pants, slinky black and white tops and bikini silhouettes by Rustan's—held Slimagines in their hands.

Among the D820 ambassadors were publishing man Ernie Lopez, the stylish and sweet Mia Borromeo, debonair Raj Moreno, beauty columnist Ria Francisco-Prieto, Regatta's managing director and travel bug Mia Floirendo, catwalk hunk Robby Mananquil and beautiful bag designer Amina Aranaz-Alunan.

The Slimagine party was loaded with Samsung's top execs—Spencer Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics, Charles Choi, vice president of Samsung Electronics, and Samsung's valued dealers and operators.

Packed with the most impressive features and a chic black exterior, the Samsung Slimagine is a slide-up phone with a full lineup of multimedia features. Apart from having the largest LCD screen available in the market with its 2.12 width, it is also functional across all GSM frequency bands with its Quad Band capability. It also supports microSD external memory and has a rotating 1.3 Megapixel camera.

LOVELY couple Ria and Paolo Prieto

THE LOOK of Samsung D820: fashion by Rustan's

AMINA Aranaz-Alunan, Juana Manahan and Celine Novenario

Inspired by art masterpieces

WORKS OF ART DISPLAYED IN your home provide an exquisite backdrop for special family gatherings, even perk up the usual daily activities. But what if your home is designed with the art masterpieces in mind?

This is the idea behind the new luxury home collection called The Masterpieces at Brentville International Community, a residential development for expatriate and Filipino families in the South by residential property developer Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI).

FLI president Joseph Yap will lead company officials and guests in unveiling The Masterpieces today, with various family and art activities highlighting the launching ceremonies.

Children can join the "Paint like Da Vinci" contest while visual artists of The Saturday Group sketch portraits of guests and Brentville residents. Meanwhile, interested buyers attending the event can take advantage of a complimentary trip for four persons to Boracay island.

Inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa del Giocondo," which is on display at Louvre in Paris, and Scottish painter William Dycethe's "Madonna and Child," The Masterpieces are single-detached upscale homes of Brentville aptly named Madonna and Mona Lisa.

Primarily marketed as "first homes" that embody the privileged suburban lifestyle, The Masterpieces have wider lot areas of 316 sq m and are located within the exclusive sub-communities of Prominence II and Woodmore Spring at Brentville.

Consistent with the "sunny Southern Californian ambience" of Brentville, The Masterpieces are elegantly designed along the lines of Mediterranean architecture. They boast of superior space planning, construction and finishing works all throughout their usable floor areas of berween 186 sq m to 231 sq m.

Complementing the tranquil air at the vicinity of any Masterpiece home is the unobstructed view of the streetscapes, the majestic Mt. Makiling or the landscaped gardens and open spaces as all power and communication facilities are carefully laid underground.

The two-level Madonna offers growing households with three bedrooms, including a master's suite with a walk-in closet, an airy family hall, a viewing balcony and meticulously designed spaces for a cozy living area, a practical kitchen with a service area, a maid's room with a separate toilet and bath, a powder room, storage area, a carport, porch and lanai.

The Mona Lisa, perfect for starter families, bachelors, young professionals and retirees, features three bedrooms and well-defined spaces for living and dining areas, a functional kitchen for the house gourmet, a maid's room and a separate laundry area, a carport, a porch and a lanai.

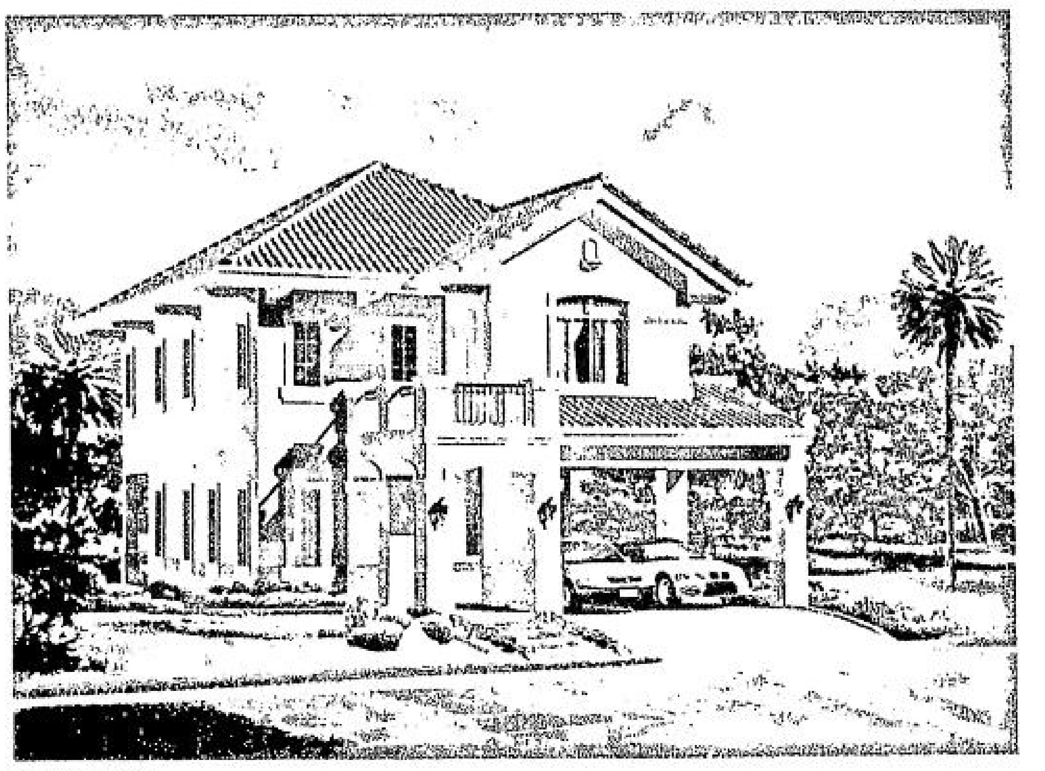
The house-and-lot packages of the Masterpieces come at lower cash-payment rates but are also available through easy in-house or external financing arrangements with zero-percent deferred payment of up to two and a half years. Selected lots-only offerings are priced at P9,600 per sq m.

The Brentville International Community is divided into seven distinctly designed sub-communities, each made even more exclusive with its own secured entry, a cabana with multipurpose social halls, children's playground and barbecue area, landscaped grounds and lush greenbelts and open spaces.

On top of these, Brentville residents enjoy the leisure and sports facilities of the community's main clubhouse, including its infinity and children's pools, basketball and tennis courts, picnic and camping grounds and landscaped gardens. The clubhouse is also their venue for hosting large family gatherings, business functions and other special occasions.

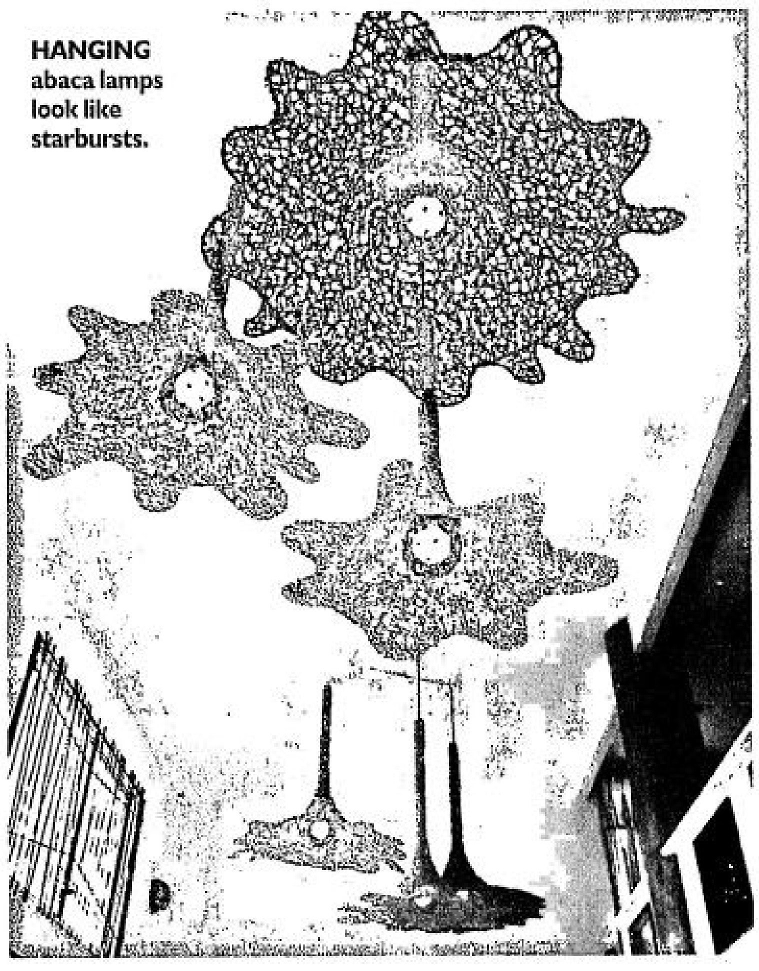
The 44-ha Brentville, now a thriving world-class community, is located just 200 meters from the Mamplasan Exit along the South Luzon Expressway in Biñan, Laguna, a short 10-minute drive from Filinvest Corporate City and 30 minutes away from the cities of Makati and Tagaytay.

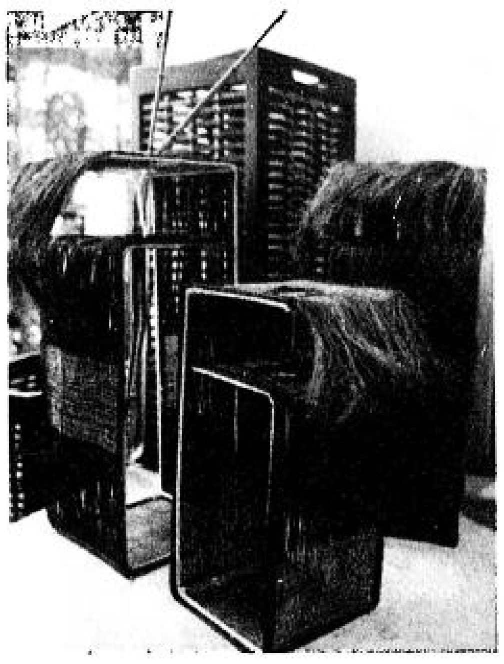
Call 8075511 and 8076907.



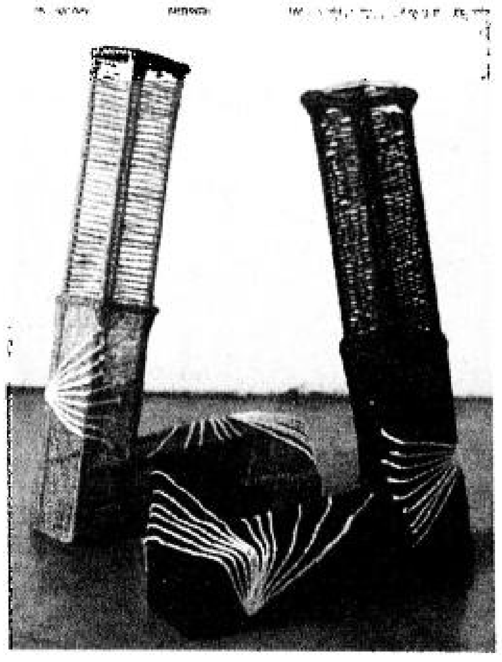
MADONNA

MONA LISA


HANGING abaca lamps look like starbursts.


USING whole stalks makes the abaca sturdy enough as material for cabinets.

ABACA rugs are better able to take the wear and tear of life in the tropics.


VOTIVES are also decorative pieces in these containers.

Two entwined

Married designing duo Sheldon Jr. and Kristine Villanueva take abaca to greater heights

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE ABACA IS MOVING UP and keeping polite company these days.

After years of being known primarily as a sturdy and reliable cordage, referred to in other countries as Manila hemp or just Manila, this cousin of the banana has started to show it is just as versatile as its relative. It has moved from boats and ships to living rooms and dining rooms, bedrooms and ceilings and every spot imaginable.

Not that the abaca has always been a single-use material. As the new book "Abaca Philippines," published by Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte, points out, abaca fiber was already being woven into fabric and made into sandals and slippers in many parts of the country long before the arrival of the Spaniards in 1521. But these products were primarily for local buyers.

In recent years, abaca has also been used in the manufacture of paper, particularly the kind used for currency.

The center of the abaca production and trade was, and remains, the Bicol Region, though abaca is also cultivated in Western Visayas and some parts of Mindanao.

With the profitable market overseas for cordage in the past, the abaca seemed destined to be a hidden treasure, unable to shine and show just what it was capable of.

But pioneering craftsmen and entrepreneurs in Bicol, like Shelmed Cottage Treasures, saw there was more to the fiber than just something to tie things up.

An acronym of the first names of its owners, Sheldon Sr. and Mediatrix Villanueva, Shelmed grew from the old abaca handicraft business of the Vallejos (the "Med" half of the company). It produced baskets and other household accents and accessories for export, creating a fairly profitable business that has survived three generations.

A WOODEN chair gets a modernist look.

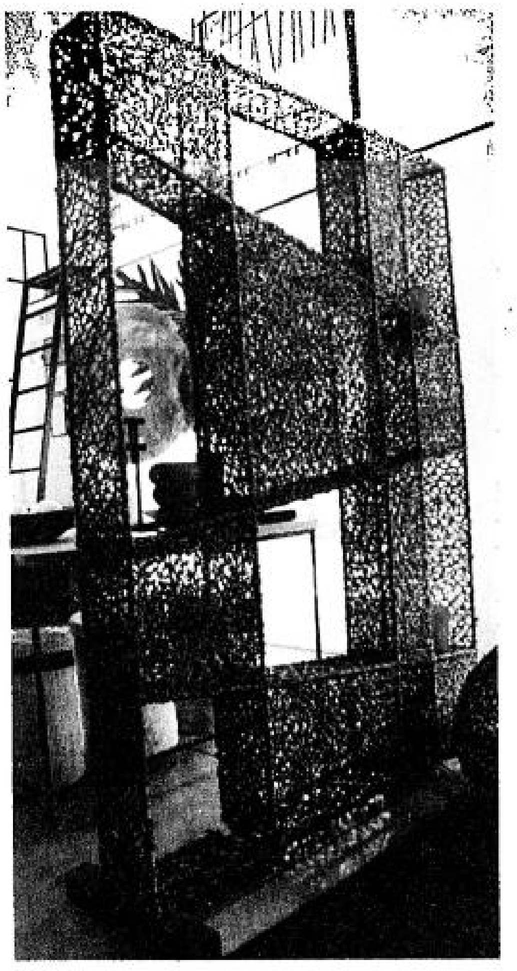
New areas

And now a fourth generation, husband and wife Sheldon Jr. and Kristine (nee Dee) Villanueva, is boldly going into areas where their elders have not gone before. The couple thoroughly prepared for the task of bringing the abaca to heretofore unchartered territories, first taking up industrial design at De La Salle University (they were classmates) and pursuing their master's degrees in the same field at Pratt Institute in New York.

Back in the Philippines, Sheldon (Dondon to family) and Kristine are almost literally lighting a path that will bring the family business into a new direction, introducing, among others, avant garde lamps for table, ceiling, floor and every spot imaginable and votives.

They set up Duo Living last year, a name that does not only speak of their partnership but also suggests which way they are taking the abaca.

DESIGNING COUPLE Sheldon Jr. and Kristine (nee Dee) Villanueva


WITH THE whole stalk rolled and twisted, the abaca in this cabinet almost looks like cane.

No longer is the material simply turned into bags and baskets. In the hands of these very creative husband and wife, banana's cousin has now become, aside from unique lamps and votives, chairs, tables, dividers, carpets and area rug. And there's every indication the creativity and imagination of the Villanuevas will give the abaca more interesting incarnations in the future.

At Duo Living, the abaca is no longer just strips of thin, thread-like fibers. For furniture and other heavy-duty pieces, the whole abaca stalk is now also rolled and twisted like a rope, resulting in something as sturdy as cane but with the look and texture of the water hyacinth or water lily, as it is commonly known.

Local market

Initially setting their sights on the export market, like Shelmed, the young couple shifted their focus and decided to create as well for the locals as they increasingly got requests from people to be allowed to buy their designs.

They set up Duo Living on Balagtas, a quiet, short residential street off Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City. The location is almost directly opposite Shelmed. The two-story property is a showroom cum office. Items are scattered all over, including on the staircase leading to the second floor office.

Unlike in other stores where buyers are not allowed to sit on furniture on display, here you can try on for size and comfort the different chairs. Though sometimes the owners-designers get a little attached to their creations, like the leather living room set designed by Dondon that he is now reluctant to part with, you can always ask them to do something similar and expect to get your order in about two weeks.

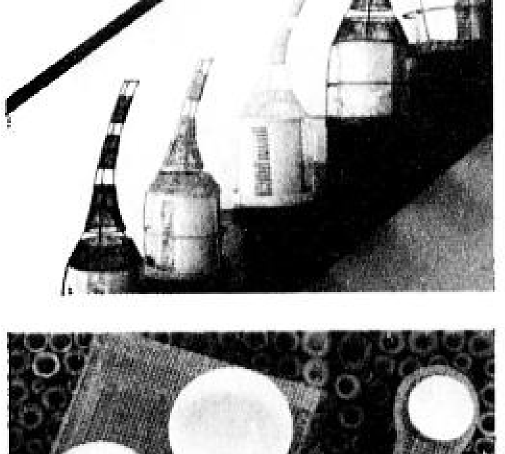
Work is done by artisans and craftsmen in Legazpi City, Albay, where the Villanueva family hails from.

Husband and wife do all the designing at the moment although the shop carries pieces from other craftsmen and exporters on a consignment basis. Kristine says it is easy to tell apart her and his designs—Sheldon's are more structured, formal, while hers are more free-flowing, "organic" as she describes it.

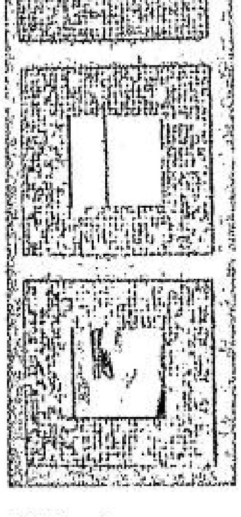
As a service to customers, Duo Living has an interior designer to offer advice on decorating and accessorizing.

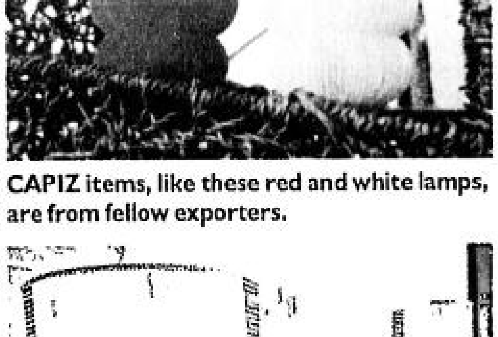
Duo Living is at 840 Balagtas St., Mandaluyong City. Call 7260897 or 7180038; fax 7219483 or 7251974. E-mail duodesigninc @mail.com

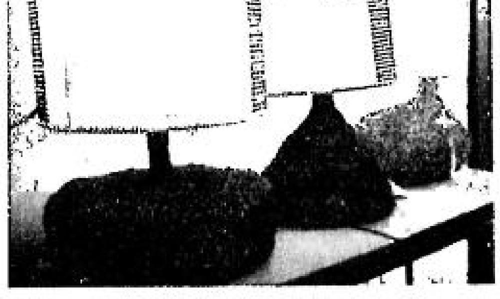
THE DUO LIVING showroom in Mandaluyong offers a collection of both traditional and modern designs and uses for the abaca—from hampers to furniture to dividers and rugs.


LAMPS look like old bamboo baskets used to catch fish.

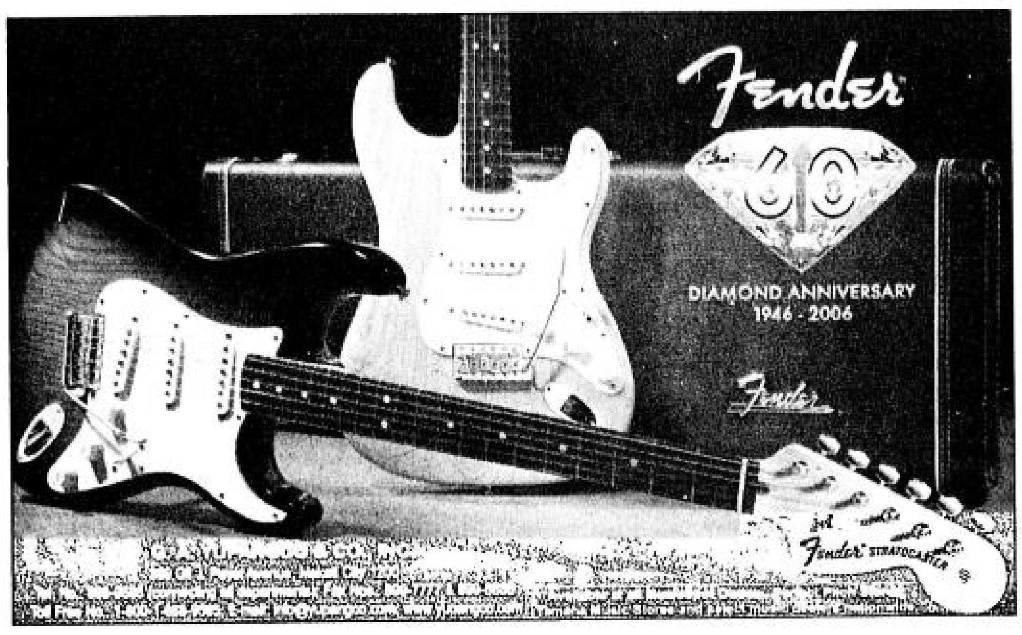
CANDY and snack dishes are served on colorful abaca trays.


WALL mirrors framed in capiz shells are simple but attractive decorative pieces.


CAPIZ items, like these red and white lamps, are from fellow exporters.


KRISTINE says Dondon's designs are more formal and structured, like these lamps, while hers are more "organic" or free-flowing.

A fresh-smelling and germ-free home can happen overnight if you have the right cleaning products



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Here's to a squeaky clean house!

BARELY MANAGING THE MESS IN YOUR house? There are ways of effectively and efficiently cleaning your kitchen and living room and other parts of the house.

Bacteria-free kitchen

- For sink clogged with grease, pour in a cup each of salt and baking soda, then a kettle of boiling water. This flushes out the grease for easy drain.
- To prevent grease and grime from sticking to your stovetop, rub it down with car wax once in a while.
- Baking soda is a great stain remover for crayon marks on painted or plastic surfaces. Just sprinkle a small amount on a damp sponge or washcloth and wipe the area. Or out a little toothpaste on a soft toothbrush, wet and lightly scrub. Wipe down the wall with a damp rag.
- Pour boiling water over juice stain until it disappears.
- Don't ignore dirty wooden kitchen cabinets. Deep cleaning twice a year is necessary to prevent cooking oils from penetrating the wood that will dry and crack it. This allows maximized use of the cabinets.
- When cleaning splattered food in the microwave, heat a cup of water for 3-4 minutes on high. The steam loosens the food. Then wipe microwave with moistened cloth.
- Pine-Sol Cleaner is also tough on stains, grease and grime. It cleans, disinfects, and deodorizes, leaving your kitchen smelling clean.

The Original Pine-Sol has real pine oil that gives its special cleaning power. It can also be used in your laundry and bathroom. Other scented variants of Pine-Sol are Sparkling Wave, Lemon Fresh, Orange Energy and Lavender Clean.

Pine-Sol is available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

Clutter-free living room

- Bundle all newspapers, wrappers and old magazines and place them in an area where you can locate them anytime. Or better yet, put them in your stock room if you have one.
- Neatly stack magazines or books on the coffee table. Rearrange decorative objects so they're in place and attractively positioned.
- Collect any dishes, glasses or candy wrappers that you can find around the living room and take them to the kitchen. Put the glasses and dishes away or toss them into the dishwasher. Just get them out of sight.
- If you have some around, bring in a fresh flower arrangement or fresh plants and place them around the room. Spray a light air freshener into the air.
- Grab a Scotch-Brite Furniture Cloth and quickly wipe off the tabletops, frames, mirrors, chair handles and any dusty surface you can find. Scotch-Brite Furniture Cloth has a microfiber texture that enables it to pick up dust and dirt instantly.
- Dirt, grit and sand act like sandpaper on the surface that you walk on. They scratch, make dents and damage wooden floors, laminates, ceramic tiles, vinyl and linoleum flooring. To avoid this from happening to your living room floor or kitchen, make sure you sweep and mop the floor regularly. Scotch-Brite General-Purpose Mop is specially designed to clean the floors and get rid of nasty spills.

Call 8133781-95, or join the Scotch-Brite Homemakers Club by sending contact details to sph@mmm.com or fax to 8145873.

Looking for good house cleaners?

SARA LEE, A DIRECT-SELLING COMPANY, offers a complete line of easy-to-use, high-quality household cleaning products to keep the home clean and fresh the quick and easy way.

For spotless and freshly scented ceramic or vinyl tiles in the kitchen, bathroom and other parts of the house, Home Need Surface Disinfectant in Fresh Clean Scent kills bacteria that can cause food poisoning and life-threatening diseases like pneumonia and meningitis.

The non-flammable, non-toxic multipurpose detergent Home Need All-Purpose Cleaner can be used for hard-to-clean electrical appliances, car engines and even jewelry to remove stubborn stains more effectively.

Home Need Toilet Bowl Cleaner will help keep toilet bowls fresh-smelling and germ-free.

To help keep your home smelling fresh and clean all day, Sara Lee offers Home Need Air and Fabric Freshener in lemon, country garden and tropical fruit variants. Its fragrance is long-lasting and it keeps fabrics stain-free.

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Trans Co

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2006-06A

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, South Luzon Operation and Maintenance* (TRANSCO-SLOM) through the *2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board* zintends to apply the sum as indicated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Purchase Requisitions (PR). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

BID SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	APPROVED BUDGET
DATE OF BIDDING: June 21, 2006 / 1:30 PM PRE-BID CONFERENCE: June 9, 2006 / 1:30 PM				
A4	DIST-1-06-19538	Pole, Wood Creosoted & 3 others (70, 65, 60, 55 ft.)	58 pcs	Php 3,927,150.00
A5	3CAV-06-17555	Supply of Materials, labor, equipment, tools, expertise & supervision for the regasketing and leak corrections of 50MVA Power Transformer at Dasma S/S	1 lot	Php 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: June 22, 2006 / 9:00 AM PRE-BID CONFERENCE: June 9, 2006 / 1:30 PM				
B10	PSMD-S-06-17040	Transformer Oil Filtering Machine	1 set	Php 6,000,000.00

2. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the aforementioned Bid Schedules. Delivery schedule of the GOODS shall be in accordance with the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Materials Management Services, TransCo-SLOM and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 NN and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. from Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from May 31, 2006 to June 20, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher per bidding schedule.* The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. TransCo-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 9, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the OAVP Conference Room.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on the date and time stated above. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the forms indicated in Section III Bid Data Sheet of the bid documents, in Philippine Pesos or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the date and time stated above the OAVP Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations and Maintenance* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance
Engr. Ruben G. Castuera, BAC Chairman
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna
Telefax No. (632) 520-6776
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) R.G. CASTUERA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – May 28 & June 4, 2006)

Australian Government
AusAID

REQUEST FOR TENDER

AusAID, the Australian Agency for International Development, manages the Australian Government's official overseas aid program. AusAID assists developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest. AusAID is looking for a Managing Contractor to undertake the following development project in The Philippines:

Philippines Local Governance Development Program (LGDP)

The Local Governance Development Program (LGDP) aims to improve the capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) to deliver basic services and, in effect, enhance local development. The strategic focus is on supporting institutional capacity building of Local Area Development Partnerships (LADPs) or groups of LGUs that have come together to address common issues and concerns through collaboration and resource leveraging. For Phase 1, LGDP will be working closely with the Metro Iloilo Development Council and the Provincial Government of Bohol. AusAID Manila will have overall responsibility and oversight on project implementation and will take the lead in the development of the design for the succeeding phases of LGDP.

Phase 1 of LGDP has four major components:
- Strengthen institutional capacity and development of pilot LADPs to identify and address critical constraints
- Policy development and reform to assist LADP implementation
- Support donor coordination to improve LADP implementation
- Set up program management arrangement to support Phase 1 and support development of design for the long-term program

AusAID is seeking a Managing Contractor for Phase 1 to:
- Support pilot LADPs by providing technical assistance in developing and managing packages of assistance
- Provide support to AusAID in the development of the design for the long-term program
- Provide secretariat support to the Partnership Advisory Group
- Scope out other LADPs in the Philippines that can be engaged in the succeeding phases of LGDP.

It is anticipated that the project will commence late August 2006 and will continue over approximately 13 months.

Tender Briefing: AusAID will hold a Tender Briefing and information session around the 15th June 2006 in Manila, Philippines. The actual date and venue to be confirmed.

Tender Documentation: Tender documents are available on the AusAID internet site. http://www1.ausaid.gov.au/tenders/ Alternatively, requests for tender documentation must be made in writing (letter, email or facsimile) to Tracey Bremner, Asia Contracts Section, AusAID, GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT 2601, email: LGDPtender@ausaid.gov.au, facsimile +61 2 6206 4877.

Closing Date: The closing date for submission of tender proposals is **10 July 2006** no later than 2.00 pm (Canberra time). The closing date and time will be strictly adhered to for any submissions to both the standard and electronic Tender Boxes.

Enquiries to email: LGDPtender@ausaid.gov.au

INVITATION TO BID

"As Is Where Is"

We are inviting all interested buyers to bid on the following printing machines and equipment:

ITEM #	QTY.	DESCRIPTION
1	1	3-Color Rotogravure Printing Machine, max print width 1200mm
2	1	Extrusion Laminator, max width 1200mm
3	3	Slitting Machine, 2 winder shafts with LPC
4	1	Rewinder Machine, with EPC
5	1	3-Side Sealed Bag Making Machine
6	2	PE Blown Film (Tube) Machine, max lay-fat width 650 & 700 mm
7	3	2-Side Sealed Bag Making Machine, max bag width 600mm
8	1	4-Color Rotogravure Printing Machine, max print width 600mm
9	1	SCR Rectifier Unit for Chrome Plating, oil immersed transformer type
10	1	Stainless Steel Auto Liquid Bottling Machine, 24 nozzle rotary with 6 heads screw capping
11	1 set	Kneader/Blending Machine (850), with dryer and sifter
12	1 lot	Printing Raw Materials (PE Resin, OPP Film, Ink & Solvent)

We reserve the right to reject any or all proposals without assuming any obligation whatsoever from expenses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their proposals neither we guarantee that an award will be made.

For inquiries and information, please contact the General Affairs Division thru the following telephone numbers **671-2801 to 05** during business hours.

MANAGEMENT

(PDI – May 28, 2006)

VISIT US AT:
www.jobmarketonline.com

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5295

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PURCHASE OF MECHANICAL SEALS UNDER GT-418061R1 / GT-517330
APPROVED BUDGET PHP 4,103,200.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Alejandro V. Andres** starting **May 18, 2006**, from **9:30 a.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **May 30, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property, and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time)** of *June 13, 2006*. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman - Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI - May 23 & 28, 2006)

PAGCOR
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 05-16-2006 VIS

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Private Security Agencies (PSA) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Private Security Agency (PSA) Services for Casino Filipino VISMIN Branches

Manpower Requirement:

Location/Branch	Current requirement of SGs / LGs	Max. no. of SGs / LGs required
Bacolod	6 (SG – 3 / LG - 3)	17 (SG – 14 / LG – 3)
Cebu	22 (SG – 16 / LG – 6)	34 (SG – 26 / LG – 8)
Mactan	14 (SG – 8 / LG - 6)	24 (SG – 18 / LG – 6)
Davao	9 (SG – 5 / LG – 4)	26 (SG – 18 / LG – 8)
TOTAL NUMBER OF SG/LG	51	101

Approved Budget : Twenty Five Million Five Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Five & 40/100 Pesos (Php 25,538,975.40)

Contract Duration : Two (2) years

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 26, 2006 – June 15, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	June 2, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	June 16, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	June 16, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine & 48/100 Pesos (Php 12,769.48)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat Unit, Casino Filipino – Cebu.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, Casino Filipino – Cebu.

(Sgd) NILO C. OMOLON
Chairperson, Joint BBAC-VISMIN

(PDI – May 28 & June 4, 2006)

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(look for Loren 9am-6pm).

PAGCOR
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 05-15-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply & Delivery of 14K Memento Rings

	Quantity	Specifications
Male	1,060 pcs.	14k Yellow gold rhodium plating in white gold; 10 gms.; packaged in individual jewelry box
Female	77 pcs.	14k Yellow gold rhodium plating in white gold; 7 gms.; packaged in individual jewelry box

Approved Budget : Thirteen Million Nine Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty & 00/100 Pesos (Php 13,948,750.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 26, 2006 – June 16, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	June 6, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	June 19, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	June 19, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Four & 37/100 Pesos (Php 6,974.37)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit - Procurement and Property Department, 2nd Flr. PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila..

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RENE C. FIGUEROA
Chairperson, BAC 1

(PDI – May 28 & June 4, 2006)

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Applicants must be at least High School grad • Bet. 22-35 yrs old • w/ exp preferably in a Japanese restaurant • physically fit • pleasing personality • service-oriented

Mail resumé with latest photo to:
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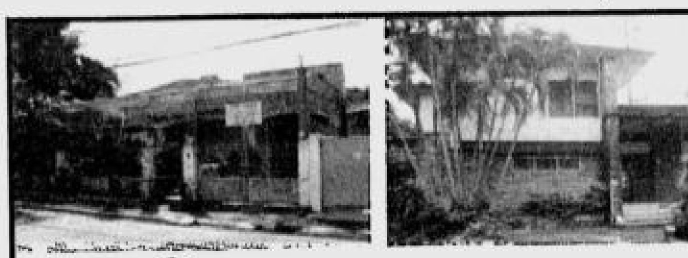
1800 A. Mendoza St., Sampaloc, Manila 1008
or email us at vic sms@philonline.com.ph



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Website : www.securitybank.com.ph

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1. Vacant Residential Lots Forest Hills Resd'l. Estate and Golf & Country Club, Antipolo City LA: 432 to 604 m² ; P3,200/m²
2. Vacant Residential Lots Southlake Subd., Bo. Bukal, near Pansol Calamba, Laguna LA: 240 to 505 m²; P2,800/m²
3. Vacant Residential Lot Manila Southwoods, Carmona, Cavite LA: 465 & 971m² ; P6,000/m²
4. Vacant Industrial Lot Lot 2, New Cavite Industrial City, Brgy. Buenavista, Gen. Trias, Cavite LA: 17,830 m²; P44.0 Million
5. Vacant Industrial Lot No. 3 San Andres St., Canumay, Valenzuela LA: 9,037m² ; P29.0 Million

WAREHOUSES/FACTORY/ COMMERCIAL BLDG.

1. Along El Camino Road, Bo. Perez and Bahay Pare, Meycauayan, Bulacan, LA: 15,000m²; TFA: 8,736m²; P96.0 Million
2. Along Vergel St., Brgy. San Roque, Pasay City LA: 1,931m²; TFA: 1,126m²; P25.0Million
3. Along Cagayan Valley Road, Mayapyap, Cabanatuan City LA: 15,410m²; TFA: 2,340m²; P36.0 Million
4. Anonas Ave. cor. K-6 St., Project 2, Quezon City LA: 548.60 m²; FA: 225 m² P18.0 Million
5. 3-storey Commercial Building, Mabini St., Bacolod City LA: 222m²; FA: 666m² ; P9.0 Million

RESD'L. CONDO. UNITS/ TOWNHOUSE/ HOUSE & LOT

1. Units 21-D & 26-B, Richgate Square II Condo. Loblolly Pine cor. Catmon, Cupang, Brgy. Camp 7, Baguio City FA: 115.87 & 136.49m²; P4.7 M / P5.5 M
2. 45 East Riverside St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City LA: 381m² ; FA: 206m²; P3.5 Million
3. 122 J. P. Rizal St., Silang, Cavite LA: 1,033 m²; FA: 259m²; P8.0 Million
4. 8 Ortega St., San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna LA: 324m² ; FA:297m²; P1.7 Million
5. 157 Country Drive St., Country Homes, Bo. Soro-soro, Biñan, Laguna LA: 240m²; FA: 210m²; P1.2 Million

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*ALL OFFERS (SALE/LEASE) ARE SUBJECT TO MANAGEMENT APPROVAL.

* SALE IS ON AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS

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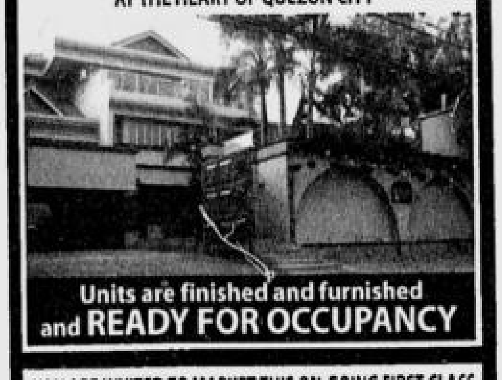

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1996 VOLKSWAGEN POLO CLASSIC UMF-159
2001 ISUZU HILANDER WAGON DSL XCE-450
2001 FORD CHATEAU WAGON WRG-394

For particulars, call 812-4520.

LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION
3rd Floor, Jose Cojuangco Bldg.
119 dela Rosa cor. Palanca
Legaspi Village, Makati

(PDI–May 28, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that a criminal case of qualified theft thru falsification of commercial documents has been filed against Anne Lorraine M. So whose picture and address appears below docketed as Criminal Case No. Q-06-139656 to 64 before Branch 99, RTC, National Capital Judicial Region of Quezon City.

ANNE LORRAINE M. SO
#137 7th Avenue, Nadurata St.,
Grace Park, Caloocan City

A warrant of arrest has been issued. A reward will be given to anyone who can provide information leading to her arrest. Please call number 372-4525.

(PDI – May 28, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public is hereby notified that the following personnel are no longer connected with WaterCare Marketing, (Phils.) effective on the stated date.

WILLIAM NACIONAL
November 30, 2005

RYAN DUGENIO
December 31, 2005

DANILO HALCON
February 09, 2006

CARLO MAGCAMIT
March 15, 2006

Any transaction entered by them in behalf of the company will not be honored.

(PDI – May 28, 2006)

For Immediate Hiring

CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
PHILIPPINES

Chief of Operations & Purchasing

CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL CSCDI-TABACO, a non-stock, not-for-profit organizations duly registered under the Phil. Laws, licensed/accredited welfare entities by the Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't. and operating as local Sponsorship Operating Agency of Children International, a respectable NGO based in Kansas City, Misourri, USA, is in need of one (1) Chief of Operations and Purchasing.

REQUIREMENTS:
Graduate of Engineering or Business Course.
Minimum Five (5) years Material Management experience.
MBA preferred but not necessary
Minimum Two (2) years managerial experience
Minimum One (1) year Human Resources Management experience.
Strong leadership skills / Ability to build relationships
Strong project management / Deal-making negotiation skills
Excellent verbal and written communication
Ability to work cross-functionally / team player
Applicants must be willing to work in Bicol

JOB PROFILE
The successful candidate would be employed by CI local Sponsorship Operating Agency (SOA). He / She would be responsible for the implementation of SOA's Procedures. Directly responsible for the day to day activities of Purchasing, Warehouse, Personnel and Administration Department.

ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE.

LOCATION: Tabaco City, Albay

Interested candidates should send their resumé and a cover letter describing their competencies and expected salary for this position to **director@tab.children.org.ph** *not later than* **June 7, 2006.**

---

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of building security services for DTI and its attached agencies for a period of one (1) year, with an approved budget of Thirty-one million pesos (Php 31,000,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 29 May 2006 until 5 P.M. of 13 June 2006 during office hours at the Supply Section, General Administrative Service, Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Claudio H. Averilla, with telephone number 751-4996, after paying a non-refundable fee of Thirty-one thousand pesos (Php 31,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 13 June 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 26 June 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The DTI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES T. BAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 28 & June 4, 2006)

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORPORATION** receipts and policy forms were lost:

1. Agency Receipts from 029851 to 029950
2. Private Car Policy Forms from 14501 to 14700
3. Commercial Vehicle Policy Forms from 14286 – 14290, 14601 – 14700, 14701 – 14800
4. Certificate of Cover #300135

The foregoing receipts and policy forms are hereby void; any transaction involving any of the said receipts and policy forms shall not be honored by and shall not bind **MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORPORATION**.

(PDI-May 28, 2006)

-RUSH-
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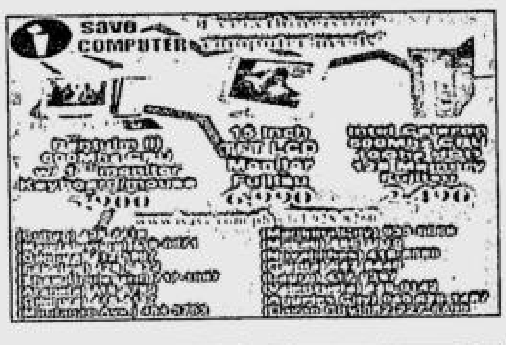
(PDI – May 28, 2006)



PCCI
357th & 358th
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May 27 & 28, 2006
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MRS. ELAINE WHITNEY (CAN)
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE RESIDENTIAL

MAKATI
- Ayala Ave Urdaneta Apts. Condo GFA 245m² 3BDR Parking Slot
- Galleria de Magallanes Two (2) Condos GFA 220m² 3BDR
- San Lorenzo Ponce Lot 585m² with two (2) storey residence

MUNTINLUPA
- Ayala Alabang Saranggani Lot 1208m² w/ state – of-the art two (2) storey concrete res. 4BDR/TB, spool, 2 car garage rear golf course
- Ma. Cristina Cor Lot 1137m² w/ 2-storey conc res. 3BDR/TB, spacious garden, spool, 2 car garage
- Tamarind Drive rear forested area Lot 746m² w/ two (2) storey concrete res. 4BDR/3TB, 2 car garage
- Filinvest Parque de España Condo GFA 97m² 2BDR Parking Slot
- Alabang Hills Don Manolo Blvd. Vacant Lot 800m² ;
- Tagbilaran St Lot 456m² w/ 2-storey conc res. 3BDR/TB, 1 car garage

BATANGAS
- Talibeach Nasugbu three (3) Vacant Lots White Sand Beach rear Seaside Drive 2283m² ; Outlook Drive 1458m² ; Talibeach Drive 1547m²

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Chandeliers, sala set, curtains, two refrigerators, two beds, nipa hut, cabinets, vault

---

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RESIDENTIAL

MANILA – Sampaloc	MIN BID
1. H&L / # 1308-A Castanos St Brgy. 414 / LA-290, FA-258 (near Legarda & Arellano University)	3,294,000
QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
2. Hse & Lot / # 19 Balabac St. Araneta Vill, Brgy. Dona Imelda LA-777, FA-348 * w/ Lis Pendens (near Quezon Inst. & SM Centerpoint)	10,500,000
3. H&L/# 269 M.Aquino St Banlat Rd, T.Sora LA 120 / FA 191 (near NPC / NIA Subdivision)	1,350,000
CAVITE – Dasmarinas	MIN BID
4. Hse & Lot/ L 5 B 9, Queen St Regency Exec. T'Hms, Sitio Malinta Brgy. Sampaloc-II / LA-50, FA-68 (near PCU-UTS & Malinta Elem. Schl)	700,000
CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	MIN BID
Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
5. L 4 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 122	861,000
6. L 5 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 232	1,636,000
7. L 3 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 97	684,000
8. L 4 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 114	804,000
Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
9. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
10. Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 120	596,000
11. Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 123	611,000
12. Lot / Lot 18 Blk 6 / LA 132	656,000
13. Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
14. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
15. Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
16. Lot 49 Blk 50 / LA 582	2,212,000
17. Lot 50 Blk 50 / LA 627	2,383,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
18. Lot 35 Blk 37 / LA 687	2,061,000
19. Lot 12 Blk 38 / LA 653	1,959,000
20. Lot 06 Blk 45 / LA 1,085	3,255,000
CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic	MIN BID
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
21. Lot 6 Blk 19A / LA 1,249	1,249,000
22. Lot 5 Blk 19B / LA 3,052	3,052,000
23. Lot 8 Blk 19B / LA 1,890	1,890,000
24. Cor.Lot 9 Blk 19B / LA 2,247	2,585,000
25. Cor Lot 1 Blk 24 / LA 1,624	1,868,000
CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	MIN BID
26. L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St Andrew St Manila Southwoods, Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (near Gate 1) * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,005,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	MIN BID
27. H&L L-7 B-3, Valley Golf Dr Valley Golf Subd, Mayamot LA 1,961 / FA 107 (nr Ortigas Extn)	4,300,000
28. L 20 B 17, Jerusalem St, Palmera Hills, Ph-5, Brgy Uulan/LA 120 Via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	299,000
29. L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA 266 (nr Sumulong)	1,332,000
30. L 21 B 2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA 355	1,778,000
31. Lot 47 Blk 18, Park Ridge Est Ph 3 (via Valley Golf) LA 611	1,852,000
32. L 17 B 1, Beverly St, Sta Barbara 1 Mission Hills Colaque/LA 1 021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000
ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	MIN BID
33. Lot/L6 B2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Est, Ph 3, Mission Hills Brgy Colaique LA 540 (near Pines City)	1,700,000
MAKATI CITY - Kingswood Twr	MIN BID
P. Tamo cor V. Cruz Extn, near Shopwise	
34. Penthse / Unit P2F, Tower B 28th & 29th flrs / FA 154	7,208,000
35. Penthse / Unit P3F, Tower B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154	7,208,000
BULACAN – Plaridel	MIN BID
Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
36. Cor Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
37. Cor Lot / L 13 B 7, LA 404	1,414,000
38. Cor Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
39. Lot / Lot 25 Blk 8, LA 350	1,155,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	MIN BID
# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
40. Lot / Lot 3 A 5 / LA 1,847	401,000
41. Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
42. Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
43. Lot / Lot 3 A 2 / LA 1,848	401,000
44. Lot / Lot 3 A 1 / LA 1,839	401,000
CALOOCAN – Gracepark	MIN BID
45. Lot / L 25 & 26 B 31, 2nd St LA 388 (between 3rd & 4th Ave)	3,428,000
VALENZUELA – Nr Malinta Exit	MIN BID
46. Lot / Lot 551 A 2 A 3, Pineda Compd Bonifacio St / LA 1,114	2,241,000
TARLAC (via Hacienda Luisita)	MIN BID
47. 2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	255,000
SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patiis	MIN BID
48. *Lot / B 15, LA 40,171	1,607,000
49. *Lot / B 16, LA 40,171	1,607,000
50. *Lot / B 17, LA 40,171	1,607,000
51. *Lot / B 18, LA 40,171	1,607,000
* No Right Of Way	

RESIDENTIAL

Colina Subd – Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	MIN BID
Brgy Sn.Antonio (nr Toll gate & Filipinas Golf)	
52. Lot / Lot 52 Blk 1 / LA 70	406,000
53. Lot / Lot 53 Blk 1 / LA 50	290,000
54. Lot / Lot 54 Blk 1 / LA 80	464,000
55. Lot / Lot 5 Blk 3 / LA 70	406,000
56. Lot / Lot 6 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
57. Lot / Lot 7 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
58. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
59. Lot / Lot 11 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
60. Lot / Lot 12 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
61. Lot / Lot 13 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
62. Lot / Lot 14 Blk 3 / LA 70	406,000
63. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
64. Lot / Lot 3 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
65. Lot / Lot 4 Blk 4 / LA 70	406,000
66. Lot / Lot 5 Blk 4 / LA 70	406,000
67. Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
68. Lot / Lot 7 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
69. Cor. Lot / Lot 1 Blk 4 / LA 83	498,000
70. Cor. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 4 / LA 84	504,000
71. Cor. Lot / Lot 9 Blk 3 / LA 89	534,000
72. Cor Lot / Lot10 Blk 3 / LA 92	552,000
LAS PINAS – Talon Dos	MIN BID
73. 2 Sty Thse/ # 475 C.North 11 St, Angela Vill, Brgy Talon 2 LA 68/FA 101 (access via Happy Vile)	1,400,000
TAGAYTAY CITY	MIN BID
between Sta. Rosa, Lag. Short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	
74. Lot/Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd, Tolentino West (over looking Taal Lake) LA 2,156 * wth Lis Pendens	20,000,000
MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	MIN BID
San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	
75. Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,810,000

COMMERCIAL / AGR.

(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

MAKATI CITY	MIN BID
Pio Del Pilar, near South Super Hi-way & EDSA	
76. *Lot/L1,Evangelista St/LA 150	5,775,000
77. *Lot/L2,Evangelista St/LA 150	5,925,000
78. *Lot/L3,Evangelista St/LA 150	6,075,000
79. *Lot / L4,Evangelista St corner Arguelles St / LA 171	7,268,000
* w/ approved subd plan, TCT under UBP in process	
80. Comml / Resl Lot / # 3904 Quingua St, Brgy.Pinagkaisahan LA 612 (beside Forbes Park) * w/ Final Supreme Court Decision In favor of Unionbank	18,000,000
Millenium Plaza- Mkti. Ave cor Eduque St	
81. Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261 (near former International Schl)	17,765,000
TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	MIN BID
Panganiban St. - across Iceplant	
82. Lot / Lot 4 A 1 / LA 373	5,390,000
83. Lot / Lot 4 A 2 / LA 373	5,390,000
84. Lot / Lot 4 A 3 / LA 374	5,405,000
85. Lot / Lot 4C, Rizal St/ LA 759	8 094 000
MANILA – Divisoria (KP Twr.)	MIN BID
86. Condo, 2/F, CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA 658 *on Lease	28,792,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	MIN BID
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
87. Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
88. Comml Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000
QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
89. Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
90. Whouse / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA 5,641 FA 3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
91. Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA 49.504 / FA 23,384	300,000,000
VALENZUELA CITY	MIN BID
92. Whse / Lot 13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas, LA 2,540 FA 3,314 (near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
93. Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City 6 T Santiago St, Canumay-West LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
94. Indl Lot w/ Whse / # 47 Maysan Rd / LA 7,871 / FA 7,040 (near Maysan Elem School)	40,702,000
95. Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,798 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts)	45,000,000
SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	MIN BID
96. Agri Lot w/ resl H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181 A 5 A 1 A 1 D, E,F,G,I & Lot 6181 A 4,Psd 4A 001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA 101,038, FA 9,277 (along the Hi-way) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000
CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces	MIN BID
nr Transville Subd, via Treca Martires	
97. Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 / * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,117,000

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CUBAO 72 Anapolis 9122194

Dn Antonio Royal 4BR 4TB 2CG attic 9510647 9125847

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New 2sty 2br w/coverd grge Nangka Mkna 9480309

Sweden Cor Solven Marikina w/Pkng P5.5T 0918-9379247

TONDO NARRA U/D 1TB 2528553

7T 41Fema Rd Edsa Proj8 9211050

RUSH SALE

LOTS at
SAN CARLOS CITY, PANGASINAN
2044 sqm near University;
118 sqm near Department Store with Jollibee
Contact Nos.
(075) 634-1819 / 532-2403
(0918) 930-7377

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LOT FOR LEASE 700M2 09164534382 09178070651

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Std&Rm nr La Salle T-8992148

BEDSPACE

MALE BEDSPACER MLA LUXURY CONDO PEARL DR ORTIGAS CALL 0920-9217306

Mktl nr Ayala 1T Lady 8974697

ORTIGAS/MALE 09064339368

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5 MASSAGE THERAPIST 2SKIN/FACIAL SPECIALISTS AT LEAST W/1YR EXP 20-35YRS.OLD ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY. APPLY IN PERSON CONTACT JANE, ARIS OR NETTE. GEDCOR SQUARE BLDG NINOY AQUINO AVE PQUE CITY TEL#829-6696 / 829-9164

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COMMERCIAL LOT
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For inquiries please call: 815-8632 or (049) 534-1115

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BMW X5 4.6is SAV 2004 automatic, 25,000 km, as new condition. P4.7M.Estoril Blue. Contact Marlon 814 1452 / 0906-4343552

CARS

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04s Escape XLT 4x4 P699T 03 CRV A/T 0917-7112618 01 Sport Trac 4x4 S.Roof 98 L.Cruiser VXR Dubai V8 97 Discovery V8 • 415-0884

2000Kia Carnival red 1st own 0917-5351791/0917-8320215

2002 Honda Accord Vti-L
Black,Peak Condition
Tel: 817-2698/(0917)5266153

'95 Mazda 7432462 P60T neg

98 Honda CRV red 1st own 0917-5351791/0917-8320215

B-NEW SENTRA 20TDP X-TRAIL 30TDP 09172587749

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32 sq.m. floor area

AVAILABLE THRU PAG-IBIG, BANK or IN-HOUSE FINANCING

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- * ALNO, LA TRINIDAD – 3.5 Hectares Good for farm or residential use

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(074) 422-1675 or 0918 941 8659 or visit us at:
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Araneta Ctr Cubao nr Ali Mall finance Trde-in consignment Pajero Trooper Lite-TownAce Delica Serena Largo Estima Safari Surf Fargo RVR MU Terrano Odyssey Suzuki Elf Canter 4-6W etc slot rental 439-1117 / 0917-8342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

CARS FOR RENT

•Carlines Rent a Car•
Vans, Coaster, Bus, Xpdtn F-150 4Whl Benz U-Drive Car
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Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

WANTED TO BUY

KOTSE MO BILI KO T-8990215

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

Weinstein Piano 25T 9370139

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 33T-UP 8014494

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

98 BULKCARR w/ PUMP 650T
97 BULKCARR TRAILER 500T
75 LOADER w/ BUCKET 350T
1bag Cmnt mixer w/Motor 15T
047-2371150 / 0921-5473787

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS : TERMS -T7213124

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

•OFC EQUIP SALE NEG NEW W / Waranty T 0917-7860916
IBM Server bundle P302T
Infocus Projector P46T
HP Color Printer P38T
•1-3 Tier Sofa Blk P21T
Hi Black Exec Chr Blk P9T
Swivel Chr Nxseries P4T
ENZO II Postur Chr P2250
Vsitor Chr w/arms P1250

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2 Units VOGT Tube Ice Machine 1 Ton Each 1 Unit Cold Storage 631-9584 • 633-6219

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BLK LABRADOR PUP 453-0078

Minipin 09209012380/7211339

•PUGS • SHARPEI I 3725231

BJMPMBAI
Membership Meeting
BJMP Building
No. 144, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
8:30 a.m., Sat.
29 July 2006

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GoldCrest Bldg., Glorietta - 2
5646593 5897041 0917-8473744

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE STUDY NOW PAY LATER T-T3026893

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Felipe Alejandrino was extra-judicially settled by his heirs w/waiver of rights per Doc. 070, Page 15, Book XLII, Series of 2006 & Doc. 046, Page 11, Book XLII, Series of 2006, before Notary Public Isidro Almenteros of Manila (May 14, 21, 28, 2006)

Notice is given that the estate of the late Severino S. Cruz & Virginia Sibayan Cruz was extrajudicially settled by their heirs w/waiver of right per Doc. 141, Page 29, Book XXII, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Mangulat of Q.C. (PDI-May 14, 21, 28, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE PEDRO R. COLLADO WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 382, PAGE NO. 77, BOOK NO. 11, SERIES OF 2005 OF THE NOTARIAL REGISTRY OF ATTY. JOSE TEODORICO V. MOLINA OF QUEZON CITY (PDI- 5 / 14, 21, 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MILAGROS G. ESPINOSA was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share by her heirs before Notary Public Jovencio P. Fulgueras of Quezon City per Document No. 43 Page No. 9 Book No. 7 Series of 2006 (PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Wenifreda U. Canon was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. 281, Page 57, Book III, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jose T. Gamaca of Taguig City (PDI-May 28, June 4, 11, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN F. BALITAAN was extrajudicially settled with waiver as per Doc. No. 189, Page No. 39, Book No. XXIV, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Atty. Angelo G. Medina of Pasig City. (PDI-May 14 21 & 28, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice hereby given that the following Phil Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Common Stock certificates had been reported lost:
MFO 180237 for 6 shares
MFO 180235 for 13 shares
MFO 231528 for 4 shares
Doc.Nos.313 &314 Page No.64 Book No.45 Series of 2006 If no Contest received,New Stock Certificate shall be issued (PDI May 21,28 & June 4,'06)

Notice is hereby given that ICARD No. 000-008-488 issued to Fr. EDUARDO REVILLA, SDB was lost.
(PDI - May 28, 2006)

PERSONAL

HAPPY 100TH MAMAI

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT - MSR

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A customs broker needs partner in brokerage business text/call 09186549524 or email micky_molina@yahoo.com

FOOD FRANCHISE Bus 4 Sale Complete Package Call No. 0917-6020830

★TUNA DEALERSHIP★
LONGANISA ,TOCINO, EMBUTIDO
09214831331,8175511,9364151

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Expd Stylist/Cutter
204 Katipunan QC 4395095

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING • LICENSED PHARMACIST • Please Call 871-0141 or 871-6431 CP:0918-9001145

FREE CAREGIVER COURSE 5280730 5280747 3026893

HIGH END SALON IN QC IS IN NEED OF MANAGER. EMAIL YOUR RESUME AT Palodoma@yahoo.com or CONTACT CHARLOTTE AT 433-1413/426-6993

•IMMEDIATE HIRING•
ARCHITECT
Knowledgeable in Autocad & 3D Studio Max, with 2 years hands on experience. Submit your resume & portfolio at DQA Design & Planning Inc. Unit 2103 88 Corporate Center, 141 Valero cor. Sedeno St., Salcedo Village,Makati City

IMMEDIATE HIRING MEDTECH / MIDWIFE OR NURSE 915-3978 • 533-9396

LIC. XRAY TECH 5210531

LOOKING FOR HEAVY EQUIP SALES MNGR CALL 4434850

OFC STAFF 09065176201

TEACHERS BSE-ED 655-0609

Virlanio Foundation, Inc. is in need of the following positions:
(1) Purchaser & Custodian
(1) Workshop Teacher
(6) Houseparents
(2) Physical Therapists
(1) Occupational Therapist
(2) Special Educators
For details, please Call Tess Ynion at 8962289 • 8955260

WANTED NURSE REPORT W/ BIO DATA TO SOLDIERS HILLS BLK 10, LOT 10, MUNTINLUPA CITY M,W,F, 8:00 TO 12:00 BETWEEN 20-30 YRS OLD SINGLE OR CALL 842-3704 &LOOK 4 NELLY JAVELLANA.

DRIVER 10yrs exp Stay-in Married Police/Bgy Clear 724-9330/9328

WANTED THERAPISTS
20-30yrs.•1st Yr. College•No experience•work overtime Call: CHUCHIE 09178056212/NORIEL 09204305858

ACCOUNTING CLERK
w/experience College level 204KatipunanQC 4395095/93

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING PRE SCHOOL TEACHER COLLEGE GRAD. FEMALE AT LEAST 22 TO 35 Y/OLD NEWLY GRAD ARE WELCOME APPLY W/ RESUME & TRANSCRIPT AT S.A PRE-SCHOOL 139 RD.2 PAG-ASA Q.C. 456-0208 / 456-0185

REAL ESTATE STAFF
female w/ real estate sales experience Homeowners Dev. Corp. 154 Katipunan Ave. St. Ignatius Vill QC 9112696 / 9122874

20Autocad Optr 1Civil Engr 10yrs exp 1Architect Email: globaldes2020@yahoo.com 0918-6523120 / 911-8035

CAREGIVER 3026893

$$WANTED $$ Domestic Helper, DressMaker,Beutician,Airline Ticketing Staff (Male) Text or Call 0915-5659946 / 456-1172 look for PEARL

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LICNSD ARCHITECTS ENGRS
STRCTRL CE EE ME SANTRY
SAFETY MGRS STAAD US$1K
10F Valero Twr Valero St. Mkti
Tel. 7505723/4 Jess

OBITUARIES

BELLA OBAL ALTAREJOS

Naga City - Makati City
December 14, 1937 - May 17, 2006

Has joined her Creator last May 17, 2006
at the age of 68.

Husband **Antonio**; Children & in-laws, **Angelica, Marina, Ana Imelda & Alan, Alfonso Lucas & Ethel, Richilda, Marco Antonio**; Grandsons, **Carlos Antonio, Alan Gabriel, Antonio Lucas, Enriko Bean & Joaquin Emmanuel**; and brother, **Lucilo** would like to express our gratitude & sincerest thanks to those who have condoled and shared with us during our time of bereavement.

Please continue praying for the soul of our beloved Mama and Lola.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

WE, the family of the late

ROGELIA "Loly" L. MADRID

whom God had recalled on 29 March 2006
to rejoin her husband Rodolfo.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all our relatives, friends and others, near and far, who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, said prayers, gave donations and who, in countless ways, expressed concern and support, came together with us in praying for her divine resurrection and salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Children: **Grace, Rolando, Romulo, Rodolfo, Jr., Roberto, Rommel, Rainier** and **Rosemary**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Our Dearly Beloved

DIONICIO MARASIGAN MERCADO

Of Taal Batangas and Project 6, Q.C.

Peacefully joined our Creator
on May 26, 2006 at the age of 88.

His loving wife **Betty Mayuga Mercado**; children: **Mita, Tess, Toni**; son-in-law **Roy**; grandchild **Beatriz Angela "B"**; brother **Roberto**; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces and all relatives and friends request the pious reader to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be held on May 31, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. in La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Leonor "Nonong" Palattao-Cammayo

Has joined her husband ***Engr. Nicasio P. Cammayo Sr.***
and peacefully rest in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord
on May 26, 2006 at the age of 92.

Her loving children: **Therese & Orlando, Oscar & Carmenchu, Henry & Emily, Lourdes & Enrico, Josephine & Randolf, Connie** together with her grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives & friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 after the 9 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

A Message of Thanks

We, the **Morota** Family of Kamuning, Quezon City and **Padre** Family of Guimba, Nueva Ecija wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and expressed their sympathy in our moment of sorrow with the passing away of our beloved

ROGELIO P. MOROTA

September 14, 1938 – April 29, 2006

Please continue to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

FLORDELIS BUSTAMANTE POBLETE

of Naic, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband AUGUSTO
on May 26, 2006.

Her children **BESSIE & PETE, FERDI & LEAH, TOTI, DONDI & PERLIE**; grandchildren **APA & CARLO, CATHY, BEA, AEA, SANDRA & JUNEILLE, KAT KAT & ANDREA** request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at the Baltazar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation is on May 31, 2006 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

ESTER CARSI CRUZ KIMPO

St. Paul Manila High School Class '51
U.P. Sigma Delta Phi Batch '53

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband ***Pastor Alon Kimpo, Jr.***
in eternal life on 26 May 2006 at the age of 70.

Her sons **Patrick, Paul Edwin** and Aileen Galang, **Peter Edmund, Phil Elmer** and Irene Bonifacio, and daughter **Eileen Dimagiba**, grandchildren **Jeffrey, Ian, Elaine, Per-Per**, and **Tyrone**, brothers **Remigio, Senen**, and **Oscar** (†), brothers- and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of the Ascension, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Regalado Avenue, West Fairview, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 31 May 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park Holy Cross, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

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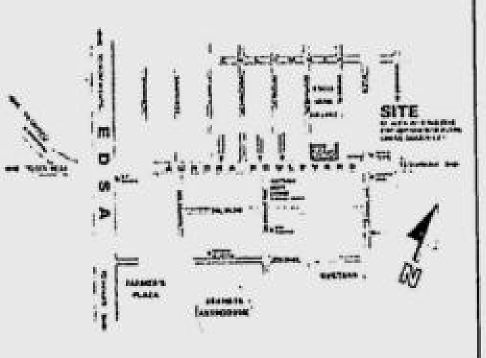

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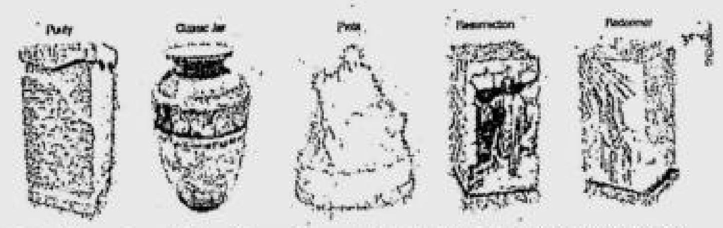

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1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts. Malate, Manila
Telephone Nos. 405-7366 & 405-7247/405-7695 (direct lines)

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila** not later than **June 07, 2006 @ 3:00 P.M.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.00.**

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	A 270 sq.m. residential lot	Bo. Alogoog, Badoc, Ilocos Norte	81,000.00
2.	1,606 sq.m industrial land	Bo. Tuktukan, Guiguinto, Bulacan	1,929,200.00
3.	Nine (9) residential condominium units and nine (9) parking slots to be bidded out as one (1) lot. **UNITS:** (Tower A) 14A and 11G (Tower B) 3A, 4A, 4D, 7F,19F, 21H, and 23H **Parking Slots:** B2-S069, B2-S068, B2-S037, B2-S071, B1-S036, B1-S037, B2-S038, B2-S072, B1-S034	Kingswood Condominium, Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City	24,731,000.00
4.	Two (2) contiguous parcels of land with a total area of 2,706 sq.m. with improvements	Bo. Calumbayan (now Bagong Silang) Calatagan, Batangas	5,805,000.00
5.	2,000 sq.m vacant lot	Bo. Calumbayan (now Bagong Silang) Calatagan, Batangas	4,000,000.00

For the complete description of Item Nos. 1-5 including bidding forms, you may look for Ms. May C. Javate or Ms. Ma. Jhoanna C. Apuan of Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at the 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.** The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

LandBank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the LBP shall be final and binding.

CECILIA C. BORROMEO
Chairman
HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI – May 28, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of IT Equipments)

I. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Re-Bidding:

Name of Project	Description	Qty	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
Procurement of Laptop Computer	Supply and delivery of Laptop Computer for DND-Proper Offices	34	2,380,000.00
	TOTAL		PhP 2,380,000.00

II. The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg., DND	May 22, 2006-June 5, 2006	9:00AM-5.00PM
Pre-Bid Conference	-	-	-
Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	OASA Old Conference Room, DND Bldg.	June 05, 2006	9:30AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (PhP 2,400.00) to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. 911-8118.

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least two (2) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VIII. The Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org., and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI - May 21 & 28, 2006)

Killer sales tactics uncovered

THIS EXPLOSIVE sales seminar could be the turning point for the sales performance of your team.

Discover: 5 Magical Ways to make the Client Trust you instantly; How to make the customers buy your idea – 6 Powerful Tools;

The 4 Psychological Triggers that turn your prospects on; the 5 Potent Presentation Techniques to win the sale;

Reading Body Language – 4 Invaluable Tips; and a lot more of very effective and practical insights plus bonus topics.

Don't miss this important event on May 31, 1 -5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

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JOB Market

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2006
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Give answers, close sales, and provide solutions to customers of top companies in telecommunications, finance, and entertainment.

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.

OTHER JOB OPENINGS:

TEAM LEADERS (Makati)
Supervise a group of agents and improve team metrics; experience in inbound sales, at least 1 year of which in supervisory capacity, gained from international call center operations

DIALER ADMINISTRATOR (Makati)
Schedules and forecasts concepts and outbound call management systems; must be well-versed in dialer platform and dbase administration

BUSINESS PROCESSING GROUP STAFF / DATA PROCESSORS (Makati)
Encode all received enrollment forms, archive hardcopies of encoded data and monitor individual encoding progress to meet daily quota for a local pharma program

FULFILLMENT STAFF (Makati)
Records incoming and outgoing mailers/compliance packs in the system; tags and monitors patient requirements and enrollment status for a local pharmaceutical program

Technical Customer Care Representatives may call 6318230 or email their resumes to hro@teledevelopment.com

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, as a walk-in applicant and experience faster processing or e-mail your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Commonwealth site on May 31, 2006.

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial
Center, #46 Don Mariano
Marcos Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796
Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo
St. Legaspi Village,
Makati City
(02)756-7188

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

We offer attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, TIN and SSS number will be prioritized.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2306 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

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Think what's possible.

Are you looking to work in a global growth company where you can make a real difference? With more than 82,000 associates around the globe in our affiliates in more than 140 countries, we share a vision of a better today and tomorrow for patients - a vision that drives our growth and success. Our greatest job satisfaction is knowing that we improve lives, we extend lives, and we save lives - and we do it with increasing precision and efficiency through breakthrough science and innovation.

We are on the look out for high potential individuals who possess the drive & ambition to fast track their career in Sales. Challenging career opportunities & an attractive compensation package await successful candidates!

Medical Representative (Job Code: MR)

The successful candidates will be responsible for the effective promotion of assigned products to targeted physicians. This includes an effective and efficient implementation of programs and strategies directed towards the achievement of sales growth and profitability.

Qualifications:

- Degree in any four year course, preferably in Management, Marketing or in Life Sciences
- With at least 1 year experience in sales gained from a multinational pharma company
- Willing to travel and be relocated to provincial territories. (Batangas, Lower Cagayan Valley, Cagayan De Oro)
- Ideal candidates must possess above average communication skills, must be highly adaptable to a dynamic & fast paced environment, highly customer oriented and driven to achieve targets.

Interested applicants may send their resumés to 2/f Asian Reinsurance Bldg. Gamboa cor. Salcedo Sts. Legaspi Village Makati, or email to **novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com**

NOVARTIS

www.novartis.com

Trade and Investment Development Corporation of the Philippines

Bulletin of Vacancies

Vice President for:

Finance Department*
MIS Department
HR & Administration Department

Minimum Requirements:

- Master's Degree relevant to the job
- CS Professional (2nd Level Eligibility)
- 3-4 years managerial & supervisory experience
- *CPA (RA 1080)

I.T. Officer
Credit Officers**

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
- CS Professional (2nd Level Eligibility)
- 2-4 years relevant experience
- **CPA (RA 1080)

Applicants can send in their Resumé, Transcript of Records & Career Professional Eligibility to:

The SVP, Corp. Mgt. Support Sector
TIDCORP (PhilEXIM)
3/F Citibank Center, Citibank Plaza
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1226

SALESMAN

- 21-35 years old
- knows how to drive a motorbike

SALES LADY

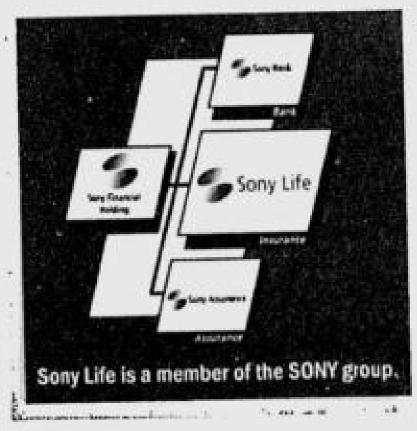
- salary or commission whichever is higher
- 21-28 years old, preferably student
- with pleasing personality at least in height
- opportunity to make 1,000 a day

DRIVER

- Single, 25-30 years old, stay-in, with prof. license

Call: 0915-8980976 No Text Please

Sony Life


Sony Life
Sony Life is a member of the SONY group.

At Sony Life, we pride ourselves in being the flagship company of Sony's Financial Business Group. With over Php1 Billion in total capital, Sony Life is surely here to stay.

Just recently, Standard & Poor's has given Sony Life an A+ rating for its strong market position amid a difficult operating environment. The key to our success is our unique way of selling, using a needs-based approach. Through this, we are able to provide our clients with a Tailor-fitted policy that suits their capacity and lifestyle.

Openings:

Marketing Planning Assistant

- Age 20-28 (Fresh Graduates Allowed)
- College graduate in BS Marketing, Math or Actuarial Science
- Proficient in MS Office
- Creative and Analytical

Marketing Planning Specialist

- College graduate in BS Marketing, Math or Actuarial Science
- Preferably with 3 yrs of experience in life insurance
- Proficient in MS Office
- Creative and Analytical

Finance Assistant

- Age 20-28 (Fresh Graduates Allowed)
- College graduate in BS Accounting, preferably CPA
- Familiar with computerized accounting systems
- Skilled in Financial Analysis
- Good communication skills

Accounting Assistant

- Age 20-28 (Fresh Graduates Allowed)
- College graduate in BS Accounting, preferably CPA
- Familiar with computerized accounting systems
- Attentive to details & systematic

Sony Life Insurance (Philippines) Corporation
35th Floor, PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue Makati, 1226
Tel 8196001 Fax: 8191803 Email **hrd@sonylife.com.ph**

URGENTLY NEEDED

A financial institution is in need of a highly dynamic individuals to fill-up the following positions for its 3rd Quarter Expansion Program for 2006.

AUDITORS / BOOKKEEPERS

- Male / Female; 21-30 years old
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Licensed CPA with or without experience
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

ACCOUNTING CLERK / ACCOUNT SERVICE PERSONNEL / TREASURY PERSONNEL

- Male / Female; 21-25 years old
- Accounting Graduate
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned in the following areas: **Luzon** - Metro Manila / Antipolo / Malolos / San Fernando La Union / Sta. Cruz Laguna / Legaspi City / Masbate. **Visayas** - Cebu / Bohol / Roxas City / Iloilo City / Borongan / Catbalogan / Carcar.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Honest / Hardworking / People Oriented
- Good in oral and written communication

Applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to (please indicate the position applied for & the area of preference):

Box No. KA-042-06 MT
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Trinity bldg., 636 TM Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

or email their application at regine_evangelista@yahoo.com or faxed resumé at 525-01-56, you may also inquire at 528-4774 and look for Ms. Regine Evangelista or Ms. Cristina Pinos.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Female, 25-30 yrs old; preferably U.P. graduate of a business course.
- 3 yrs work experience as an Executive Assistant or Executive Secretary to a Corporate Officer.
- Proficient in English (excellent grammar and proofreading skills).
- Computer proficient in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation tools and Internet.
- Results-oriented, with analytical and administration skills.
- Excellent comprehension and listening skills.
- Organized and systematic, with good time management skills.
- Honest and dependable.
- Must possess personal and professional integrity.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications.

Apply personally with your resume, photo, and references to:

The Recruitment Manager
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Or Email: ebmuscat@motolite.com

Jones Lang LaSalle is the world's leading real estate services and investment management firm with over 100 offices worldwide. Our rapidly expanding office in the Philippines now seeks application for the following positions:

Assistant Facilities/Office Manager

- Between 26-35 years old.
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Experience with client reporting and preparation of reports
- Must have strong leadership qualities and can work well under pressure
- Experience in a highly customer oriented organization preferably in the same capacity or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities.
- Knowledgeable in Financial, Data, Vendor and Contract Management
- Practical knowledge in Technical/Engineering services
- Experience in Facilities/Office Management is extremely valuable
- Well-versed in Microsoft Office applications

Admin Assistant/Receptionist

- Female, between 23-27 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course. New graduates are welcome to apply.
- With pleasing personality, smart and confident
- With good communication skills, both oral and written
- Must have strong customer service focus
- Can easily establish rapport and demonstrates active listening skills
- Efficient and well organized
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to start immediately

Please send your resumé to:

JONES LANG LASALLE.

Facilities Management Department
8F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
1200 Philippines
email: aileen.fernando@ap.jll.com

We're looking for an honest, creative and responsible

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for an A-1 Village in Parañaque

- with at least three years administrative experience
- excellent oral and verbal communication skills
- who can work under pressure
- implement village rules firmly and equitably with compassion, and get along with The Board of Directors, homeowners, staff and other constituents.

Please send your resumé to:

The President
SouthBay Homeowners Association
Villonco Road, Barangay BF Homes, Parañaque
or email it to sbhaiboard@yahoo.com.

NURSES FOR USA!!!

Our principal AGA Global Resources (Reg. No. 100096579) a Manpower and Service Provider based in New York, USA is in need of highly qualified and professional nurses to fill their vacancies.

- **FREE** Immigration Fees for Nurses
- **FREE** Lawyers Fees for Nurses
- **$250** for NCLEX Review
- NCLEX to be taken in Hong Kong
- **FREE** Airline Ticket to the U.S.
- **FREE** Visa Screen Application
- Location: **NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA**
- **And more...**

Requirements for Philippine Nurses to work in the USA under Immigrant Visa:

1) CGFNS Certificate, 2) TOEFL, TSE/ IELTS, 3) Descriptive Resume, 4) At least 1 year hospital experience, 5) PRC Board Results and License, 6) Certified True Copy of Transcript of Records, 7) Certified True Copy of Nursing Diploma, 8) Certified True Copy of NSO Birth Certificate, 9) Marriage and Dependent Birth Certificates, 10) Employment Certificates, 11) Copy of Valid Passport (Front Page Only), 12) 2x2 Photo

MEET THE EMPLOYER FROM THE U.S. FOR PRE-SCREENING AND INTERVIEW. COME TO THE **FREE SEMINAR ON THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS** ON THE FOLLOWING DATES & VENUES:

MANILA : **June 12, 13 & 14, 2006** (Mon, Tues & Wed), 1:00-6:00 pm, AIM Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City

ILOILO : **June 16 & 17, 2006** (Fri & Sat), 1:00-6:00 pm, Plaza Amigo Hotel, J.M. Basa Street, Iloilo City

CEBU : **June 21 & 22, 2006** (Wed & Thurs), 1:00-6:00 pm, Cebu City Marriot Hotel, Cardinal Rosales Avenue, Cebu City

Registration starts at 12:00 noon.
Pre-register by sending resumé to
agaglobaljobfair2006@yahoo.com
Or call the following: 0917.835.54.16 (Mla);
0927.663.43.53 (Iloilo);
0927.485.69.89 (Cebu)

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY ALSO SEND THEIR RESUME TO:

ONLINE HIRING CORPORATION
POEA License: 555-LB-112602-R
3/F Mille Bldg.Sen.Gil Puyat Ave. cor Dominga St. Pasay City
Tel. Nos. (02) 522-9097, 522-9098, 522-9101
Mobile:0927.663.4353; 0927.485.6989; 0928.367.7358
Email:online_hiring@yahoo.com or agaglobal@hotmail.com

DataProcess Outsourcing, Inc.
Unit 307 JAJAJ Building, 109 Panay Avenue, Q.C.
Tel. No. (+63-2) 374-5597
Home page: http://www.dataprocess.org

A fast growing business process solutions provider with expertise in legal and business transcription, data entry, and Japanese to English translation is looking for the following personnel:

- **Data Encoders**
  - Must have typing speed of 60wpm
  - Adept in computers (Office, web-based programs)
- **Transcriptionists**
  - Can transcribe at least 400 lines per day
- **Internet Researchers**
  - Must be experienced in data research on the web
- **Network Administrator (I)**
  - Must be an IT graduate
  - Experienced in networking, trouble shooting

General Qualifications:

- Must be college degree holders from reputable schools
- Highly proficient in English
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Must be willing to work long hours and/or night shift

Send your letter of application, resumé and a photocopy of NBI clearance to:

Unit 307 JAJAJ Building, Panay Avenue, Q.C.
email: mldario@dataprocess.org

WALK-INS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

JOIN THE ORACLE® TEAM

Oracle Corporation is the world's largest enterprise software company, providing solutions that help companies manage, use, share and protect business information - database, middleware, business intelligence, business applications, and collaboration. With it's 55,000 professionals, it is found in nearly every industry, in more than 100 countries around the world and in 98 of the Fortune 100 companies. Oracle is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

Oracle (Philippines) Corporation is hiring qualified professionals to staff the Oracle Resource Management (ORM) support team being set up in Manila. This team will service the needs of Oracle Consulting Asia Pacific.

Resource Manager (Ref Code: ORM-MGR)

Responsibilities:

- Manage the ORM team who are charged with providing a broad range of value-added services to the Asia Pacific Consulting group. These services relate to consultant/ contractor sourcing and deployment, taxation support and accruals, cost calculations, contractor monitoring, supply/demand analysis, etc.
- Interact with Consulting Asia Pacific management to recommend and implement resource management strategies

Qualifications:

- Management of a team of from 10 – 15 people
- HR recruitment experience
- Willing to travel occasionally outside of the country
- College graduate in HR Management, Psychology or related courses

Tax Specialist (Ref Code: ORM-TS)

Responsibilities:

- Handle all calculations related to projections, accruals and actual expense take-up for tax liabilities arising from the planned or actual deployment of non-local resources to other Oracle Asia Pacific Consulting organizations

Qualifications:

- Tax Accounting background in a reputable firm
- Exposure to tax accounting across countries required
- Experience on computerized accounting systems preferred
- Certified Public Accountant

Financial Analyst (Ref Code: ORM-FA)

Responsibilities:

- Ensure the accuracy of financial transactions related to the deployment of non-local resources to other Oracle consulting organizations in Asia Pacific.
- Analyze planned versus actual profitability from contractors deployed in Asia Pacific projects.

Qualifications:

- Accounting background in a reputable firm
- Experience on computerized accounting systems preferred
- Certified Public Accountant

Resource Specialist (Ref Code: ORM-RS)

Responsibilities:

- In a timely manner, service resourcing requests from Asia Pacific Consulting by tapping various resourcing channels.
- Improve the productivity, efficiency, and profitability of OCS APAC practices by effectively handling resource demand and supply requirements

Qualifications:

- HR recruitment experience desired
- College graduate in HR Management, Psychology or related courses

Visa Specialist (Ref Code: ORM-VS)

Responsibilities:

- Work with Oracle's HR and Immigration specialists to provide advice on visa and travel-related concerns related to the planned or actual deployment of resources from other practices/countries.
- Ensure that all Asia Pacific Consulting resources working outside of their home country are properly documented and holding the correct visa.

Qualifications:

- Good understanding of visa and immigration policies across Asia Pacific, or a background that would enable this.
- College graduate in a related field

Analyst (Ref Code: ORM-An)

Responsibilities:

- Analyze Demand vs Supply trends within the Asia Pacific Consulting group and recommend resourcing strategies, training programs, and/or partnering initiatives to address resourcing concerns.

Qualifications:

- Financial analysis or operations analysis/operations research background in a reputable firm
- Experience on computerized accounting systems preferred
- CPA, Operations Research or related courses

**Work experience in a consulting organization is preferred.
All applicants must possess excellent communication skills.**

Email your CV's quoting the position code as the subject to: hr-id_ph@oracle.com or deliver
to 19/F Pacific Star Building Sen. Gil Puyat cor Makati Avenues, Makati City 1200
Visit our website at **www.oracle.com**

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When thinking about where to invest globally, think Canada, an outstanding place to live, invest and do business.

Boasting the highest quality of living among G8 countries, a world-class education system, and political and economic stability, Canada is an ideal place to invest in your future.

Interested successful business individuals can learn more about these opportunities during a unique seminar, highlighting the many advantages of the Canadian Immigrant Investor Program.

Under this exclusive program eligible investors may obtain:

- An unconditionnal Canadian visa;
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- A Canadian citizenship after three years.

Brought to you free of charge by Hoppe Bruner, a Canadian based Immigration Law Firm and FDR Relocation Pte Ltd., in collaboration with Desjardins, a leading Canadian Bank, this seminar will be held at :

Venue: CEO Suites, Philippines
Date: Saturday, June 3rd, 2006
Time: 1pm and 4pm

Seize this exclusive opportunity to secure your future and contact us for reservation as seats are limited at:

FDR Relocation: Tel.: (65) 67388927 /0927-8108510(Phils.) Fax: (65) 63336980
Email: hoppe-fdr@rogers.com

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www.immigrantinvestor.com

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We are in need of a top caliber individuals to fill up our vacancies:

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FOR DAVAO AND GENERAL SANTOS BRANCHES

- ✓ **Graduate of any 4-year business course; Accounting, Business Administration and Economics graduate preferred**
- ✓ **Not more than 40 years old**
- ✓ **With at least 5 years experience in SME lending**
- ✓ **Knowledgeable in third party / specialized lending**
- ✓ **Must be analytical and familiar with financial statements**
- ✓ **Has existing portfolio and/or has established network**
- ✓ **Proficient in oral and written communication skills**
- ✓ **Can work well under pressure**
- ✓ **Computer literate**
- ✓ **Highly motivated, creative and a team player**

Requirements:

- **Letter of Application**
- **Resumé**
- **2x2 Recent Colored Photo**
- **Transcript of Records**

Please submit or mail the requirements to any of the following:

- **Davao Branch**
  Adolfo Building, Jose P. Laurel Ave., cor. Palm Drive
  Bajada District, Davao City

- **General Santos Branch**
  President Roxas Avenue cor Lapu-lapu Street
  General Santos City

- **Human Resources Department**
  7/F Manilabank Building
  6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
  Email: recruitment@manilabank.com

To know more about Manilabank,
visit our website:
www.manilabank.com

OPERATIONS AND MARKETING MANAGER

- Experience in Managing a Training and Development Center and Review School
- B.S. Degree holder
- Preferably with capability to design and program technical training and seminar modules
- Good moral character and pleasing personality
- Good communication and marketing skills
- Willing to do field marketing work

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tcti@tcti.ph**

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PAYROLL PROCESSORS WANTED

- 2-year experience in various payroll-related functions with emphasis on processing and audit
- must be able to work long hours when required
- must be keen on details & definite on decisions
- must exude a positive and healthy work attitude
- must possess good communication skills

Email resume to payrolloutsourcing@gmail.com

Hospira

***Hospira** is a specialty pharmaceutical and medication delivery company launched from the core global hospital products business of Abbott Laboratories. Bringing proven leadership and nearly 70-year track record of producing high-quality products, Hospira provides a breadth of technology solutions that help improve the safety and effectiveness of patient care.*

We are looking for candidates to pioneer Hospira's Affiliate Global Data Management Unit in the Philippine office. The Data Management Unit will oversee all aspects of the collection of clinical study data for submission to regulatory authorities. Duties will include establishing policies and procedures for database generation, writing database specifications and quality checks, designing data entry screens using a web-based data capture system, assisting Project Managers with the data collection and status reporting, ensuring data quality standards are met and transferring the final database to statistical team members.

SAS PROGRAMMER

- Will program in SAS the data display specified in the clinical research protocol and statistical analysis plan.
- Will use SAS to manage databases for numerous clinical trials. Incumbent will establish guidelines for file and field formatting, generate analysis data sets from raw data and QC data provided from outside vendors.
- Will serve as statistical team expert on all SAS programming issues. Familiarity with PROC REPORT, ODS, and macro creation is essential.
- Bachelors degree in any related field

BIOSTATISTICIAN

- Develops statistical analysis plans, sample data displays, statistical sections of protocols, and statistical reports.
- In conjunction with data managers, develops output SAS data set specifications.
- Will draft presentations of statistical issues and results to Institutional Review Boards, the Food and Drug Administration and international regulatory authorities.
- Minimum of 5 years biostatistician experience with a minimum of 2 years experience at a pharmaceutical or biotech company
- PhD or MS in statistics, biostatistics or related field.

DATA MANAGER (2)

- Experienced data manager (1 to 5 years) with a pharmaceutical or biotech company.
- Will design data entry screens, edit checks and clarification forms for clinical trial databases.
- Experience with data coding, data base merging and validation required.
- Will serve as corporate expert on all issues related to database specification and validation. With knowledge of applicable US and International regulation.
- Experience with electronic data capture a plus.
- Bachelors degree in any related field

SENIOR DATA MANAGER

- Experienced data manager (minimum of 5 years) with a pharmaceutical or biotech company.
- Will design data entry screens, edit checks and procedures for handling data to create databases in support of regulatory submissions.
- Experienced people manager – evidence of direct administrative management required.
- Will serve as corporate expert on all issues related to database specification and valuation. Strong working knowledge of applicable US and international regulation.
- Experience with electronic data capture system a plus.
- Bachelors degree or higher in any related field

PRODUCT MANAGER (Commercial Division)

- Implement core brand strategies for a product or franchise
- Take the lead in the exploration of new markets and businesses to aid sales force in achieving market share
- Ensure that product promotional programs are within regulatory and ethical practice guidelines
- Strong project management, product marketing and business analysis skills
- At least 5 years experience in strategic product marketing/business portfolio management with a pharmaceutical or medical device company
- Bachelors degree or higher in any related field

*Qualified candidates are requested to e-mail their resume to **joan.tuma-ob@hospira .com** or mail to*
Human Resources, Hospira Philippines, Inc.,
39F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue corner Poveda Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

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A leading ISO 9001 certified company in the field of curtain wall and cladding is in need of the following:

DRAFTSMAN/DESIGNER

☐ Must have mastery in AUTOCADD 2005 and be familiar with civil engineering work.
☐ Engineers with experience in aluminium/building industry will be preferred

PROJECT ENGINEERS/PROJECT MANAGERS

☐ The candidates would be all rounders with an Engineering background and proven ability to manage all the site activities.
☐ Familiarity with AUTOCADD/PRIMAVERA/MS Project would be an advantage
☐ Minimum of 5 years experience in handling projects required.

QA/QC ENGINEERS

☐ Qualified/certified Engineers with a minimum of 5 years experience in a manufacturing organization.
☐ Hands on experience in implementing quality improvement initiatives and in managing a certified quality system are desirable.

SAFETY ENGINEERS

☐ Qualified and certified Engineers with a minimum of 5 years experience as safety engineer in a manufacturing/project environment.
☐ Must be familiar with the best practices in the field.

PLANNING ENGINEERS

☐ Qualified Engineers with minimum 5 years experience in production planning and control in a large manufacturing set up or a planning Engineer supporting large construction projects.
☐ Must have proven ability to conceptualize and implement information and control systems to monitor performance against plans.
☐ Experience with a world class manufacturing set up in developing performance indicators and control parameters are most desirable.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

☐ Qualified and certified Engineers with at least 5 years experience in a Civil Engineering firm in the structural engineering department.
☐ Must be very conversant with STADD PRO/similar software.
☐ Experience with a curtain walling company in the structural engineering department is most desirable.

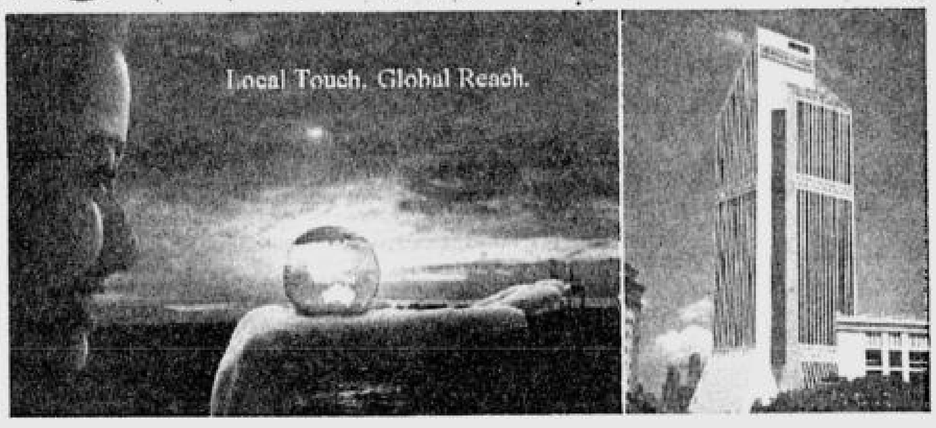
MATERIALS MANAGER

☐ Mature and highly experienced professional with all around ability to lead the material management function and with clear targets to reduce inventory, improve system reliability and reduce cost.
☐ Strong conceptual skills and ability to manage relationship with vendors to achieve strategic cost savings is a must.

We offer competitive package including free furnished accommodation, leave passage, etc. Family status can be offered based on the candidate's seniority and experience.

Apply in strict confidence within 10 days from this advertisement with a detailed CV in word format to **ravirangh20756@yahoo.com**

Maybank



Maybank is the largest banking group in Malaysia, one of the top 20 banks in Asia and among the top banks in the world. Backed by over US$50 billion in assets, it is present in major financial centers worldwide, including London, New York and Singapore.

Eight years ago, **Maybank** began to build its team in the Philippines. **Maybank** envisions to be the leading financial solutions provider, committed to meeting and exceeding customer expectations in the target markets it serves.

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Account Officer (Salary Loans)
AS/400 Analyst/Programmer
Account Assistants
Loan Assistants
Tellers/Relief Staff
Computer Operators
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Join the team that shares this vision. Grow with us.

Please email your comprehensive resume with photo to recruitment@maybank.com.ph. You may also hand carry or mail it with your passport–size photo and transcript of records to:

Maybank Philippines, Incorporated
Human Resources
2nd Flr., Legaspi Towers 300
Roxas Blvd. Corner Vito Cruz, Manila

Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.

Our Company is one of the recognized leading brands in the fashion leather business in the Philippines with more than 30 years of experience and success. As the company expands, it continues to employ competent workforce that delivers high quality products and services to its clients.

PRODUCT / BRAND HEAD

- Female, preferably single 23-30 years old
- Candidate must be degree holder in Business Administration, Marketing or Management
- Extensive exposure in product strategies, research/identifying market needs, positioning, pricing and product performance
- Extensive exposure in product marketing activities, monitoring, preparing marketing reports
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With 1 to 2 years experience in the field of Marketing and/or Merchandising
- Must be organized, detail-oriented and patient

PRODUCTION PLANNING & CONTROL SUPERVISOR

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Candidate must be degree holder in BS Industrial Engineering
- With 1 to 2 years experience under the same capacity
- Extensive exposure in inventory management and forecasting
- Result oriented, highly organized and with sense of urgency and commitment

PROGRAMMER / WEB DEVELOPER

- Male, preferably single 20-30 years old
- Candidate must be degree holder in BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- With 6 months to 2 years work experience under the same capacity
- Computer literate and is competent on the following: VB. Net for windows application, VB script for web application, ASP. Net, ASP; both on client server architecture
- Must have strong analytical skills, flexible, dedicated, commited to long-term professional relationship, a team player, well-versed in proper development life cycles.

SALES & MARKETING STAFF

- Female, preferably single 23-30 years old
- College level / Graduate of any Business course
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Personable, assertive and able to deal and communicate with different types of people
- Knowledgeable in the use of MS Office applications

Interested applicants may send or personally submit their resumé, diploma and transcript of records, and latest 2x2 picture to:

The Human Resources Development Head
#47 3rd St., New Manila, Quezon City
or email us at hr@mcjimleather.com

Distributor of **LUXURY BRANDS** is in need of the following:

BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Graduate of a 4-year business course or any related field
- Male/Female not more than 35 years of age
- With work experience in a retail establishment
- Must have an excellent written and communication skills in English language
- Must be hardworking, flexible, analytical and willing to travel

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- Graduate of a 4-year business course
- Male/Female not more than 35 years of age
- With at least 3 years relevant experience in related field
- Must have an excellent written and communication skills in English language
- Must be creative, hardworking and possess pleasing personality

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Graduate of Accounting course
- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Must be a CPA Board passer
- Must have an excellent written and communication skills in English language
- Must have knowledge in all Accounting system
- Must be hardworking, analytical & honest

HR ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Behavioral Sciences, Psychology or its equivalent
- Male/Female not more than 25 years of age
- With work experience in all facets of HR functions
- Must have an excellent written and communication skills in English language
- Must be hardworking, detailed & honest

SECRETARIES & SALES PERSONNEL

- Graduate of a 4-year business course or any related field
- Female not more than 25 years of age
- Must have an excellent written and communication skills in English language
- Must be computer literate, aggressive, people-oriented and with pleasing personality

Applicants are requested to bring/send resumé, photocopy of transcript of records, NBI Clearance and recent 2x2 colored photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#61 Sen. Mariano Cuenco St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, 1114
Tel. Nos. 712-4171 / 712-2555
e-mail: avolonan6781@yahoo.com
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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(Php 12,000-14,000 + Commission)

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- with experience training in a call center

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Interested applicants may apply personally on May 29, 2006-June 2, 2006 between 9am-12nn/1pm-5pm at KEYWEST DATA NETWORK INC. Unit 1502-139 Corporate Center Building, Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City or call (02) 752-0696. Email your resume to HRmanila@timestelecom.ca.

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Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than June 09, 2006 to the below address. Please specify if interested in one or both positions.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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Technical Accounts: (for Roxas, Cainta and Novaliches)
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- Computer literate
- Willing to work on varied hours, weekends and holidays
- With strong comprehension and listening skills

Inbound Sales Accounts: (for Roxas, Cainta and Novaliches)
- Preferably a graduate of any four or five-year course
- With minimum one year customer service/sales experience, preferably in a call center

Health Care Accounts: (for Roxas and Cainta)
- Preferably a graduate of any four or five-year course
- Preferably with medical degree or medical-related work experience
- With strong comprehension and listening skills

Airlines Reservations Account: (for Cainta)
- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least six months airline reservation experience
- Familiar with Galileo or Apollo reservation software

Loans/Collections Account (for Roxas)
- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least six months sales/collections experience

Inbound CSRs: (for Roxas, Dumaguete, Bacolod and Cebu)
- Preferably, graduates of any four year course
- With excellent communication skills in English

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Company Nurse (project based)
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Training Manager
Company Nurse
Site Administrative Assistant
Quality System Administrator
Quality Assurance Specialists
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Accent and Conversational English Trainers
Accent and Conversational English Coaches
Workforce Supervisor
Workforce Specialists
Senior Team Leader
Team Leader

BACOLOD
Recruitment Assistant
Human Resources Coordinator
Human Resources Senior Generalist
Workforce Planning Manager
Workforce Planning Specialists
Training and Quality Manager
Accent and Conversational English Trainers
Accent and Conversational English Coaches
Quality Specialists
Trainers
Facilities Lead

DUMAGUETE
Recruitment Assistant
Human Resources Coordinator
Human Resources Senior Generalist
Training Coordinator
Workforce Planning Manager
Workforce Planning Specialists

NOVALICHES
Workforce and Real Time Monitoring Specialists
Accent and Conversational English Trainers
Accent and Conversational English Coaches

CEBU
Site Director
Recruitment Assistant
Human Resources Coordinator
Human Resources Senior Generalist
Site Technology Lead
Technology Support Associate
Workforce Planning Manager
Workforce Planning Specialists
Accent and Conversational English Trainers
Accent and Conversational English Coaches
Facilities Lead

FORT
Operations Manager
Training and Quality Manager
Workforce Planning Supervisor

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Financial Analyst
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- Have excellent communication skills

TREASURY/ ACCOUNTING ANALYST

- Accounting Graduate
- Required skill(s): word, excel, powerpoint
- At least 2 years of working experience in the related field is required for this position
- Preferably with Banking Experience as new accounts/teller
- Applicants must willing to be assigned in Laguna

INTERNAL CONTROL ANALYST

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Finance/Accountancy/Banking or equivalent.
- Must be A Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s): word, excel, power point.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Applicants must willing to be assigned in Laguna

JR. MECHANICAL/ ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

- College graduate / Vocational diploma
- Experience in mechanical/electrical work or any related function
- Can Interpret mechanical/electrical diagram
- Knowledge in mechanical installment
- Experience in maintenance facilities including: gen-set, compressor, greasing paints
- Analytical, Resourceful and flexible
- Willing to work on shifting schedule
- Computer Literate
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in - Mamplasan Laguna.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Engineering - Mechanical/ electrical or equivalent.

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Email aoasan@fep.ph or ailumin@fep.ph

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- Should be able to handle investment activities of the group of companies, including stock market trading.
- Should be able to provide broad financial advise on economic fundamentals, both short-term and long-term, to the different companies within the group
- Should be able to provide key business and financial indicators at which the companies in the group should operate to satisfy the group's short and long-term profitability and liquidity goals

The position will be the right hand of the principal shareholder and will operate at a Senior Management Level. The compensation package includes salary/allowances, bonuses, profit-sharing, plus industrial stock ownership in the companies in the group. Final stock ownership will be contigent on delivered performance. The position is a good opportunity for very ambitious and hard-working entrepreneurial managers without any financial risk on their part. Your only capital will be your time, skills and effort. If you can afford to invest one or two years to find out how good you really are as an entrepreneurial manager, send your resume preferably with photo to **recruitment_hr_mails@yahoo.com** or **PO BOX Makati 3766.**

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MARKETING DEPARTMENT
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- Graduate of any four (4) year course
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- Strong analytical skills are necessary with application to problem solving
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team
- Ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in English
- Willing to be assigned to any shift
- Not more than 35 years old

100 DATA ANALYSTS

- Graduate of any four (4) year course
- Computer Science or any computer related courses preferred but not required
- Programming background preferred but not required
- Computer literate (knowledge of Windows Office and the Internet) with strong typing skills
- Good Communications skills
- Willing to be assigned to any shift
- Not more than 30 years old

Qualified applicants apply personally ASAP at:
4/F Wardley Building, 1991 Taft Avenue cor. San Juan St., Pasay City
Come with your Resumé, Transcript of Records, 1x1 ID picture, SSS no., & TIN,
Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Applicants can also submit resumés to: personnel@sencor.net
Visit our website at: www.sencor.net
This requirements is good until June 15, 2006

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(PART/FULL-TIME)

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- Can teach any of the ff:
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MAIN: 2/F FBR Building, 317 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
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The Project Administrator is part of the Community Agricultural Technology Project (CATP), which is a joint undertaking of the IIRR and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The post holder shall be responsible for proper disbursement, maintenance and reporting of project funds allotted for CATP partner organizations, and for monitoring and evaluating projects undertaken by partner organizations. Specific responsibilities include assessing and processing proposals, reports and invoices from CATP partners; evaluating progress and impact, and providing limited backstopping support in the implementation of their work programs. He/she may also be involved in other project or program activities of IIRR.

The suitable candidates should have the following: a degree in agriculture or forestry, rural development, sociology, or other related discipline; at least three (3) years of project management experience with focus on Philippine-based development projects, ideally skills should include: liaison and networking, participatory approaches and methodologies, analytical skills, and documentation; excellent written and oral communication skills in English as well as at least one local Visayan language, preferably Cebuano; demonstrated knowledge and experience in project-based accounting and financial management; ability to work on own initiative as well as being a team player; ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment; and computer proficient.

This post reports to the Director, Regional Center for Asia and coordinates with the CATP Team Leader (an Australian national), and the Finance Officer of the Regional Center for Asia. The post holder is based in the IIRR center in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest not later than June 9, 2006, together with curriculum vitae; contact information; and three letters of references with address and contact numbers to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Telephone/Fax: (+6346) 414 2417/(+632) 886 4385 to 87
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org or visit our website: www.iirr.org

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Unit 1004 Jafer Place Eisenhower Street,
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- Needs minimal supervision

Please send resumé to:

Director Guillerma E. Flores
Administrative Service
Department of Social Welfare and Development
IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills,
Quezon City

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- Review & report to top management status of trust accounts/trust portfolio

CHIEF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER:

- Oversee/manage the overall information infrastructure of the Bank
- Plan, direct, coordinate & control the overall activities of the Group on application development, operations & information security and IT services & delivery
- Oversee the telecommunication activities of the Bank

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- Shall identify & assess the risk elements inherent in the Bank's operations, credit & treasury products/programs
- Oversee the laying of ground works:
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  - ☑ in securing Board/BSP approval of the Bank's internal model in measuring & controlling market risks
  - ☑ for the development of an internal credit model & continuing measurement & monitoring of each accounts' profit contribution to the Bank
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The Head
Human Resource Management
P.O. Box 1996
Makati Central Post Office 1200

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- Experience preferred but not necessary.
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Edsa Cor. V. Ang & Gen Evangelista Sts. Caloocan City
or 1010 Edsa Quezon City e-mail **tbknorth@pldtdsl.net**
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- **Computer literate, particularly in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint**
- **Possesses management and leadership competencies; A team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills**
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All interested qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resume with transcript of records and 1x1 photo to:

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Tel: (02) 886-5511 loc. 728
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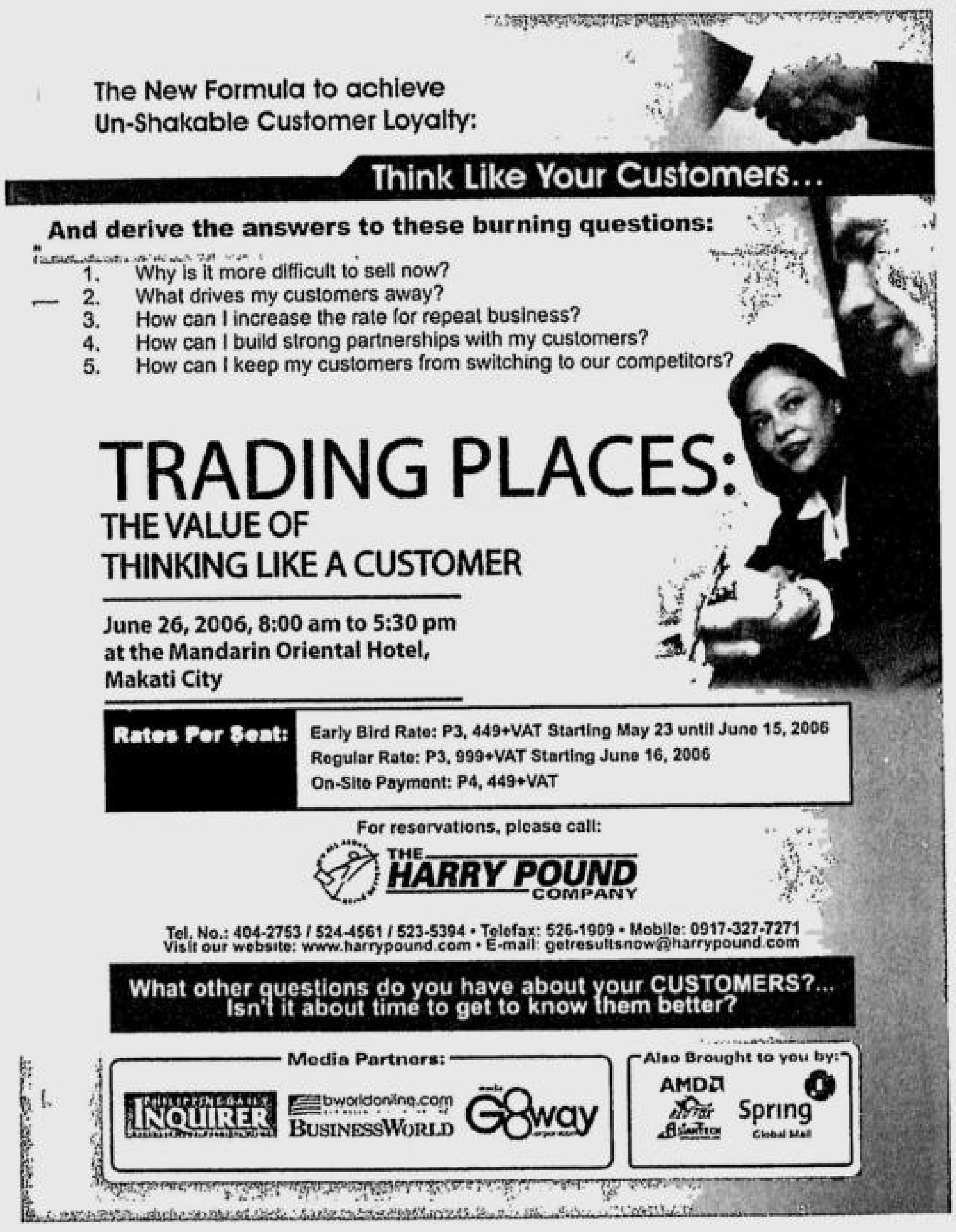

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Job Description

The vacancy in the British Embassy's Visa section is for Visa Office Manager at LE II Level. Primary responsibilities include:

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- Providing administrative support to the Entry Clearance Managers (ECMs) dealing with letters from Members of Parliament and other sensitive immigration enquiries
- Responding to telephone enquiries and speaking with applicants and sponsors at the information desk
- Writing and sending replies to general enquiries and individual visa application cases
- Allocating work delegated by the ECMs and Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs)
- Allocating appeals to ECOs and preparing daily reports for the ECMs
- Allocating work to Entry Clearance Assistants (ECAs) and overseeing their tasks on a daily basis
- Updating the telephone answering service, leaflets and information sheets for public information
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Deadline

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- Outgoing personality
- Time management skills
- Broad range of work experience an advantage but not essential

How to apply

To apply please submit, in an A4 sized envelope, a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), 1 passport size photograph and a **hand-written** letter explaining your suitability for this position to:

HR Manager (Visa Office Manager)
British Embassy
17/F LV Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226
Metro Manila
Philippines

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The Small Grants Programme for Operations to Promote Tropical Forestry in Southeast Asia (SGP PTF) is inviting applicants for the position of **Regional Office Manager**, to be based in the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in Los Baños, Laguna. The programme is fully funded by the European Commission (EC) and is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the SEARCA. SGP PTF will run until December 2007 and is currently implementing in eight (8) countries, namely : Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

The Regional Office Manager, who will report directly to the Regional Programme Coordinator (RPC), is responsible for assisting the RPC in the development and administration of the regional office, specifically:

1. Reviews budget expenditures of participating UNDP Country Offices against approved annual work plans and ensures that disbursements are within the prescribed budgetary limits
2. Prepares and analyses financial data for estimating budget availability and financial planning
3. Consolidates, converts to prescribed UNDP and EC formats collated work plan, budgets and expenditure reports submitted participating UNDP Country Offices using appropriate databases in preparation for submission to European Commission and UNDP
4. On a monthly basis, monitors the impact of foreign exchange movements of the Euro – US dollar and US dollar currencies on overall programme resources
5. Monitors the appropriate and accurate recording of payments and disbursements of participating UNDP Country Offices in accordance with agreed rules, regulations and systems
6. Initiates correspondence to verify data, answers queries or obtain additional information on accounts of financial transactions of participating UNDP Country Offices, national host institutions and the Programme coordinators
7. Maintains the current filing systems and databases
8. Directly supervises the Regional Programme Office Assistant to agreed Terms of Reference (TORs) and annual work plans
9. Periodically acts as the RPC's delegate when so authorized by the RPC and assists the RPC in the day-to-day management of the programme

Qualifications :

1. A graduate of a relevant degree
2. With at least 5 years professional experience in the management and administration
3. Excellent IT skills, particularly with MS Office applications
4. Knowledge on budgeting, particularly the ability to monitor and analyze budgets
5. Proven analytical skills
6. Ability to prioritize workflow, implement time management and capacity to meet deadlines
7. Demonstrate ability to work within a team environment and good interpersonal skills
8. Fluent in verbal and written English
9. Ability to adapt to changing environment
10. A Philippine national and a holder of valid passport
11. Interest or experience in development-related fields, particularly related to civil society and natural resource management an advantage
12. Working knowledge of UNDP and EC development objectives and function would be an advantage

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 9 June 2006. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (63 2) 901 0100.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 9 June 2006.
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‘I have a grievance against my boss’

MY BOSS CAN SOMETIMES BE obnoxious. She does not exert any effort to train us; but when we commit mistakes, she shouts at us. Worse, she berates us when we do not agree with her ideas. She takes things personally and remembers mistakes committed many months ago.

I am tempted to go over her head and tell her boss about her unwanted behavior. However, I am afraid that if she learns about it, she might get back at me through the performance appraisal.

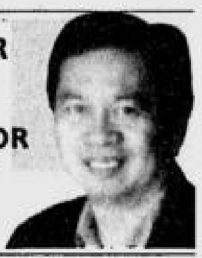
My officemates feel the same way I do. Sometimes, I want to file a grievance with the Union against my boss, but again I am afraid that she might retaliate.

What should I do to make my boss change her attitude towards us? Is there a best way to tell her about her shortcomings? Should I formalize my grievance against my boss?

I will appreciate your advice.

Maltreated Employee

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Ernie O. Cecilia



If what you say is true, you have the right to feel aggrieved. I can empathize with your situation. Truly, there are a number of ways you can handle your problem.

Firstly, you must realize that your hesitation to confront your boss has, in fact, a good basis. Some bosses simply don't want to be confronted about their own shortcomings. Therefore, you should handle this situation with utmost care.

Make her aware

First, you should help your boss become aware that she has some flaws. Usually, people don't notice their flaws, and bosses are no exception. Second, should you attempt to correct her flaws; you must ensure that she won't harbor ill will against you. You must be sensitive about her feelings and anticipate possible reactions for every move you take. Third, you must strive to achieve a win-win situation, whatever type of intervention you take.

Some bosses don't want to hear bad news, especially about themselves, from their subordinates. Therefore, you must find out if your boss can accept honest feedback. If she is open to feedback, especially negative ones, you may proceed to tell her about her shortcomings. If not, then you must find somebody she respects or can tolerate to break the bad news to her. That person could be her boss or her peers. Use only third parties to break the news to her if you think this is the best way. Some bosses prefer to hear the bad news "right from the horses' mouth."

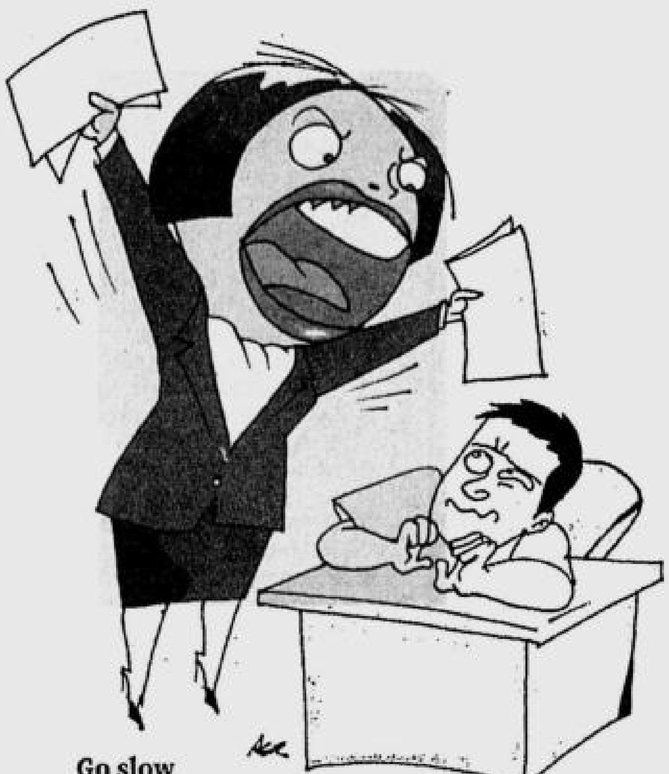


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Go slow

When breaking the bad news, it is always prudent to go slow about it. Filipinos usually prefer a more indirect way of breaking the bad news. Give your boss a forewarning that you or somebody will talk to her about an incident that could be bad news to her. I still prefer that you talk to your boss, instead of asking other people to speak in your behalf.

Whoever breaks the news, take extreme care not to label your boss. Focus on what she did or said, not on what she is. Talk of specific situations, citing the occasion, persons involved, and the perception that her action must have created. The tone of the discussion must not be misunderstood as blaming her.

Be factual

When giving a negative feedback to your boss, describe the incident, rather than make conclusions or attribute intentions to her. Don't say, "You shouted at me and treated me like a good-for-nothing person, just because you didn't like my idea."

Instead say, "I noticed that your voice was a bit high and could be heard several tables from where I was sitting. I felt embarrassed and humiliated, but I was only trying to explain my recommendation. In the future, I hope you can call me to the conference room where I can present my ideas. If you don't agree with my ideas, I certainly welcome being told why. I am open to revising my ideas to incorporate your thoughts on the matter."

Never make your boss look stupid

Whether your boss is right or wrong, help her maintain her self-esteem. The best way to antagonize your boss is to make her look stupid. If you have crucial information that can put your ideas in better perspective, share it with your boss in a timely and accurate manner. Don't make her the last to know and don't keep her in the dark.

Benefit of the doubt

It pays to give your boss the benefit of the doubt. Unless you have strong evidence on the contrary, believe that your boss is acting in good faith. If she is rough or cranky, sometimes, find out the reason for her behavior. Perhaps, it is because of pressures from her bosses, her peers or her subordinates.

Last resort

If after talking to your boss in the most polite manner, you still continue to get the same shabby treatment, then you may consider getting the help of third parties—her peers, her boss or the Union. Remember, however, that third parties may not present fairly your side of the story or could exaggerate feedback or could incur her ire. Resort to third parties only if your personal efforts to communicate with her fail.

At the end of the day, it is best to remember that bosses have a hand in the success of your career. Put more frankly, they determine your pay and your promotion.

Make peace with your boss, be honest about feedback, but never tolerate inhumane treatment. There can only be obnoxious bosses if we allow them to run roughshod over our rights. However, having an obnoxious boss does not give you the right to be as obnoxious as her. If you and other people in your organization become obnoxious too, then your workplace will surely stink.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the organizing committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. E-mail feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

Can agency rationalization solve corruption?

By Tita Datu Puangco

I WOULD LIKE TO SEEK YOUR advice. I am a government employee who has been in service for more than 20 years. Our agency is undergoing rationalization. Do you think this process can truly eradicate graft and corruption in the government? I observe that corruption is really rampant in government only because employees are silent observers and do not voice out their concerns. If one does speak up, it is a voice in the wilderness. Others tolerate corruption because they themselves benefit from it.

I have lost hope that our country will still progress since even a lowly janitor is also a partner in corruption. Is corruption a sin? Do you think people will still change their attitudes?

Lost Hope

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Thank you for your letter. No, I don't think agency rationalization alone can check corruption. From what I understand, agency rationalization means streamlining processes so that the work can be done more effectively and efficiently. Often, this results in eliminating steps in processes and also reduction in manpower. Streamlining efforts also result in more transparent process maps with clear standards and time cycles and if implemented well, can result in tighter controls and less opportunities for corruption.

But we all know that processes can be circumvented by irresponsible officials keen to promote personal interests above what is right and what is for the common good. I am no expert in addressing corruption. We need a systems or total approach to eradicate corruption. I know the situation is serious when even the janitor (as you say) is on the take. But the situation is not hopeless. As ordinary citizens, let us do our part at our level to check corruption.

What we can do

We can make sure we stand by our conviction to uphold integrity, even when our action costs or inconveniences us. Let me cite simple examples. When a person is confronted by a policeman for a perceived violation, he must not, for convenience, hand over money as a bribe. Or as a government employee, when someone requests you for help who is not familiar with the bureaucracy, do your work with a smile without expecting any cash in return. If offered money, refuse firmly.

We all can smell corruption when we see it. No amount of excuses can legitimize ill-gotten wealth. Corrupt politicians or government officials are known by reputation by everyone. People do not confront them nor do they have the courage or capacity to hail them in court. Whistle blowing may even cost you your life. But the fruits of corruption are in clear evidence, such as many houses, new cars, a lifestyle way beyond what they earn.

What can we do? Let us stop treating these politicians or officials as celebrities, excited to shake their hands or curry favor with them. My suggestion is not to treat them like gods on a pedestal. What is the appropriate treatment? Treat them as public offenders who owe us instead a public apology for lining their pockets with the taxes we pay. Let us not simply give them the attention they desire.

Prayer can work

Let us also pray for these corrupt people. They have grown thick-skinned pursuing wealth and material goods at the expense of others and the common good. We all know how short and temporary life on earth is. Let us pray that as they move on in their life journey, that they may discover God, who is the only treasure. They will realize that the softest pillow that guarantees sound sleep is a clear conscience. We pray that in the future, like Zaccheus in the gospel, they may return what they have taken.

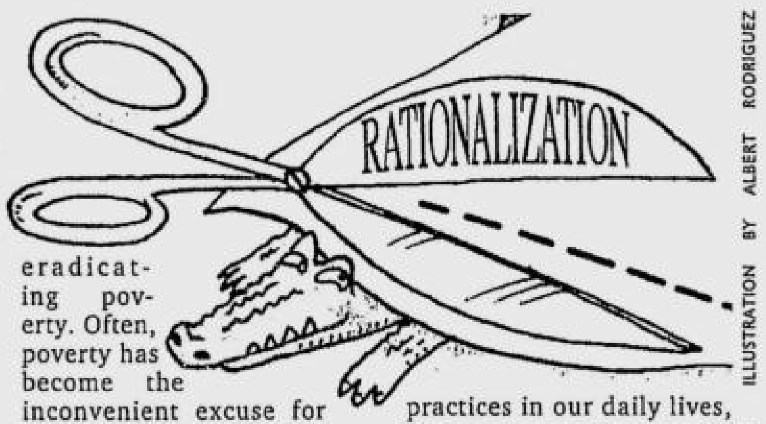


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Let us also work together to alleviate or even dream of eradicating poverty. Often, poverty has become the inconvenient excuse for corruption. Let us work as a nation to examine the roots of corruption (yes, of course it is sin) and patiently work together to correct them. Often, corruption comes from sinful structures in society where the rich become richer and the poor become poorer. Many groups are working today to provide shelter and housing, feeding programs, micro-credit etc. These moves are slowly but surely transforming society around us. Let us quicken the pace.

I am a strong believer of ethics and values training, that will put in concrete integrity practices in our daily lives, living what we know and believe is right as Catholics, or Muslims or Buddhists. Let us participate in these and encourage others to do so.

Meanwhile, amidst the rationalization, continue to render excellent service without fear. All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph, or fax to 892-2902. *For other inquiries, please call* 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.*)*

The 'right hand'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE "RIGHT HAND" HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE FOR US someone who is extremely important to us in our work, a key figure, someone without whom we would feel terribly handicapped. In our culture, one who is called the right hand or *"kanang kamay"* of the boss is the most trusted "second-in-command," a reliable servant who is adept at multitasking and multiple-role playing. He or she wears many caps and would not hesitate to do anything in the name of duty, from holding the umbrella for the boss to being his spokesperson or conduit to others.

The tasks and character of the "right hand" would, of course, vary according to the work setting. A celebrity's "right hand" could be her *"alalay"*—the all-around assistant or Girl Friday as omnipresent as her shadow and who's most likely privy to all her secrets. The caregiver would be a disabled or aging patient's "right hand" who is practically on call 24 hours a day. More often than not, righteous employers are grateful for having a devoted "right hand." Indeed, there have been cases when an employer has compensated his or her "right hand" more generously than his or her own children—by way of an unexpected inheritance, for example.

It's prestigious in a way to be the "right hand" of a VIP in the workplace, but it also entails great responsibility if one must be a "right hand" in Jesus' mold. More than just loyalty to the boss, a follower of Jesus pledges allegiance to the highest ideals man could aspire to, aware that his Lord needs him to be one of His "right hands" in the workplace. (*E-mail the author* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

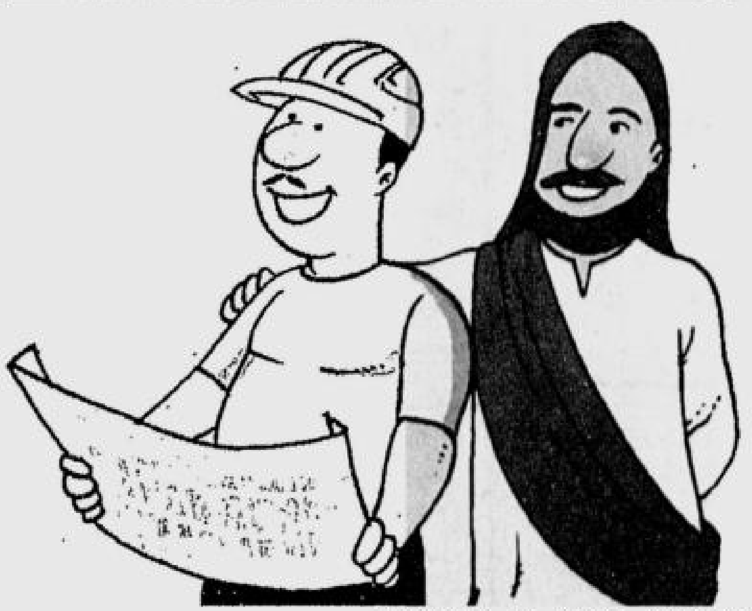


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

Sharing Christ's glory

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST SHOWS us, among other things, the reward Jesus received after perfectly accomplishing His mission on earth. He shares the honor, glory and happiness of the Father as He "took his seat at the right hand of God." Such glorious compensation, so to say, was enjoyed by Jesus because He did His work (mission) in exactly how the Father wanted Him to do it—by totally obeying the Father's will and giving all His life till death on the cross. We could say too, in the context of the workplace that Jesus could be a perfect "right hand" of the boss, God the Father.

I believe also that every worker would wish to be the most desired "right hand" of his boss, if only to get the best compensation package of the job. But he should realize that before he could drool on the power, prestige and perks an "alter ego" would normally enjoy from his master, he must work very hard even to the extent of losing his life and freedom. To be desirable to the boss, one should possess all the qualities, knowledge, and skills required not only by the nature of the job but also by the temperament and character of the human master. Realistically therefore, one would think that dreaming of becoming the best "right hand" is so ideal that only a superman can qualify.

But fortunately, however, any worker who is not only after material compensation but also believes in Jesus—makes Him part of his life by uniting his mind and heart with Him as he does his job—shares in His being a perfect "right hand" of the Father and hopes to share in the glory of Jesus, who ascended into heaven. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

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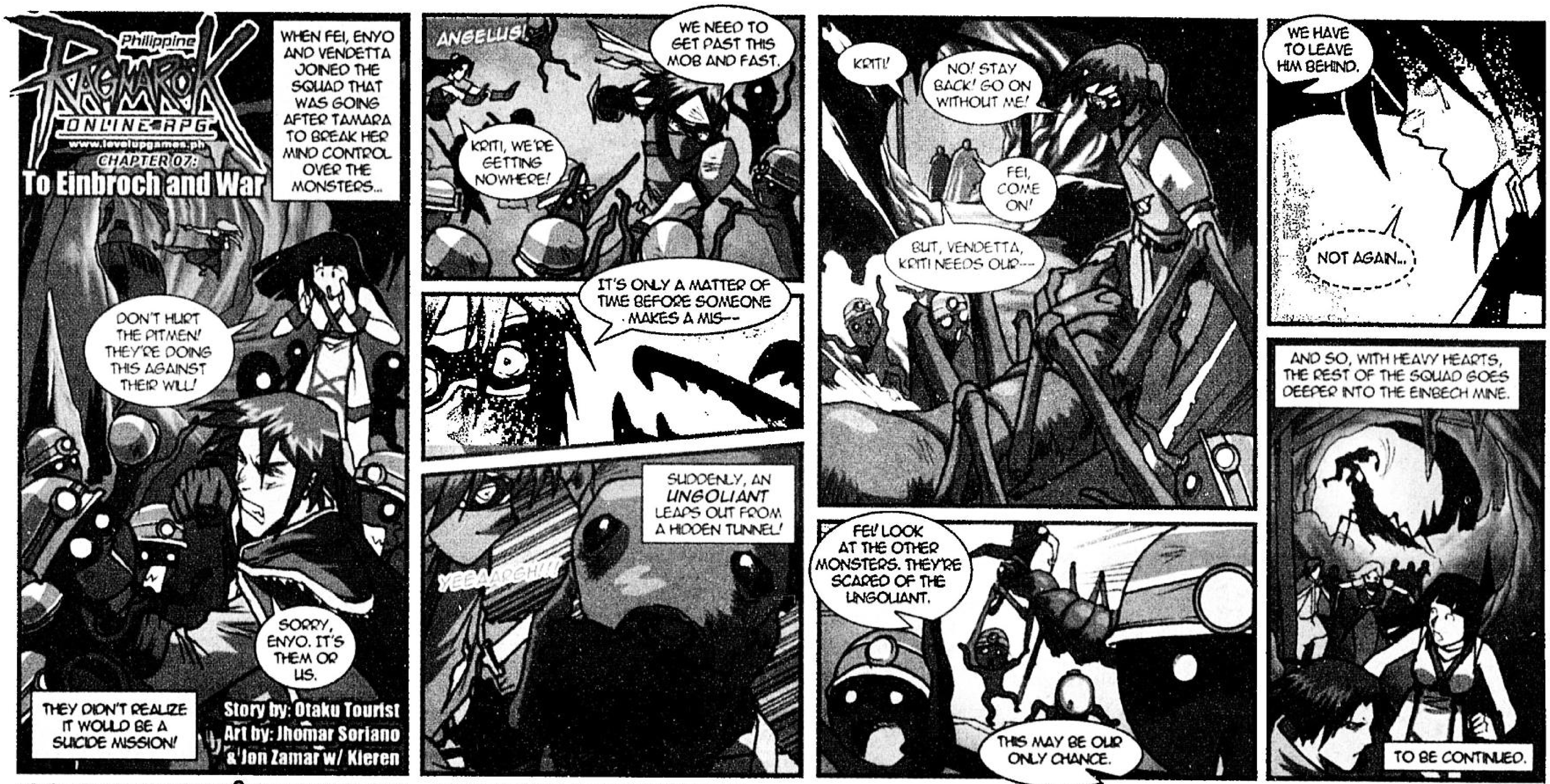
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES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www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 07:
To Einbroch and War
WHEN FEI, ENYO AND VENDETTA JOINED THE SQUAD THAT WAS GOING AFTER TAMARA TO BREAK HER MIND CONTROL OVER THE MONSTERS...
DON'T HURT THE PITMEN! THEY'RE DOING THIS AGAINST THEIR WILL!
SORRY, ENYO. IT'S THEM OR US.
THEY DIDN'T REALIZE IT WOULD BE A SUICIDE MISSION!
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Jon Zamar w/ Kieren
ANGELUS!
WE NEED TO GET PAST THIS MOB AND FAST.
KRITI, WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE MAKES A MIS--
SUDDENLY, AN UNGOLIANT LEAPS OUT FROM A HIDDEN TUNNEL!
YEEAARGH!!!
KRITI!
NO! STAY BACK! GO ON WITHOUT ME!
FEI, COME ON!
BUT, VENDETTA, KRITI NEEDS OUR---
FEI! LOOK AT THE OTHER MONSTERS. THEY'RE SCARED OF THE UNGOLIANT.
THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND.
NOT AGAIN...
AND SO, WITH HEAVY HEARTS, THE REST OF THE SQUAD GOES DEEPER INTO THE EINBECH MINE.
TO BE CONTINUED.

EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

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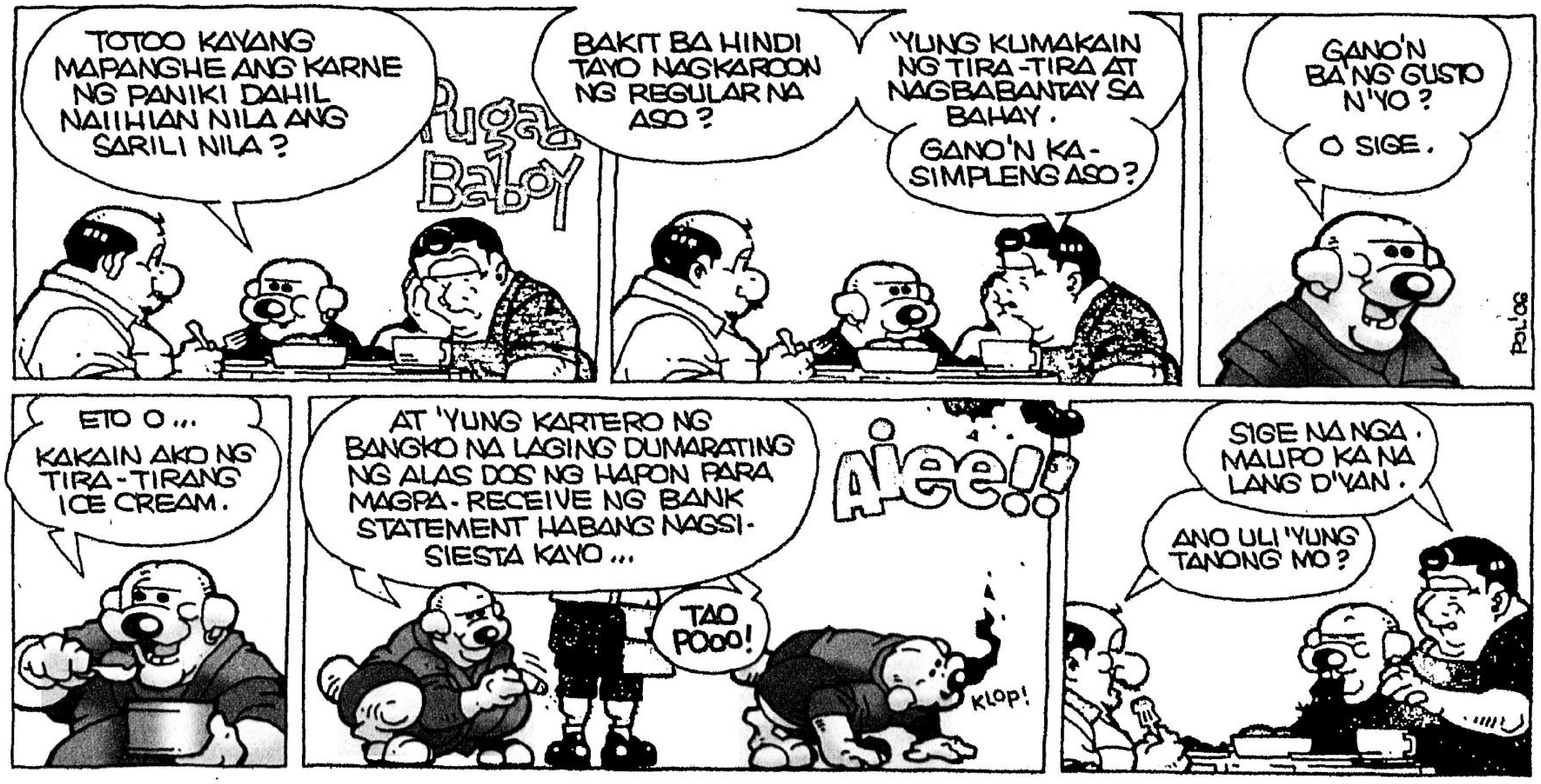
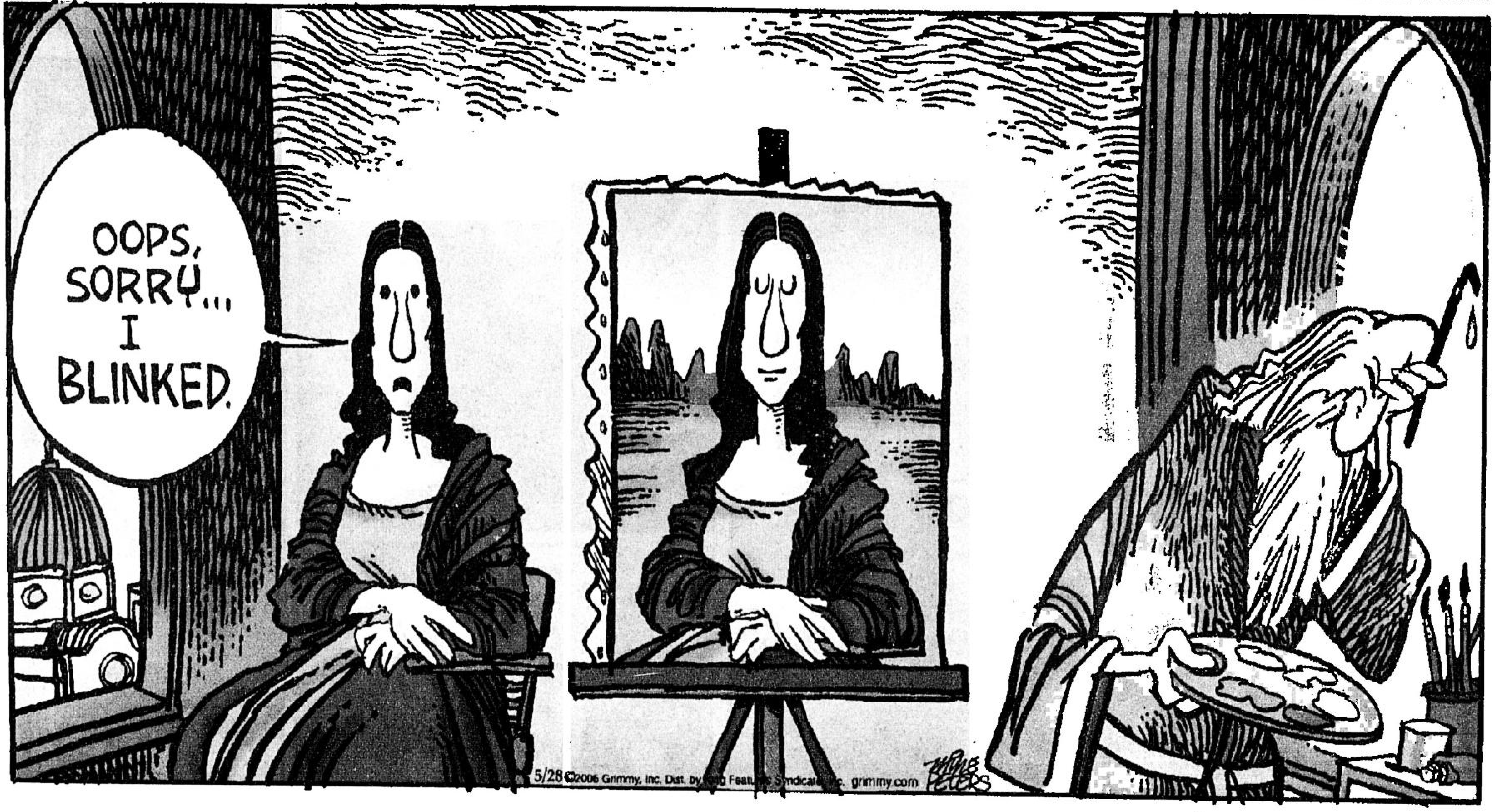
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


TOTOO KAYANG MAPANGHE ANG KARNE NG PANIKI DAHIL NAIIHIAN NILA ANG SARILI NILA?
Pugad Baboy
BAKIT BA HINDI TAYO NAGKAROON NG REGULAR NA ASO?
'YUNG KUMAKAIN NG TIRA-TIRA AT NAGBABANTAY SA BAHAY.
GANO'N KA-SIMPLENG ASO?
GANO'N BA NG GUSTO N'YO?
O SIGE.
POL '06
ETO O...
KAKAIN AKO NG TIRA-TIRANG ICE CREAM.
AT 'YUNG KARTERO NG BANGKO NA LAGING DUMARATING NG ALAS DOS NG HAPON PARA MAGPA-RECEIVE NG BANK STATEMENT HABANG NAGSI-SIESTA KAYO...
TAO POOO!
AIEE!!
KLOP!
SIGE NA NGA. MAUPO KA NA LANG D'YAN.
ANO ULI 'YUNG TANONG MO?

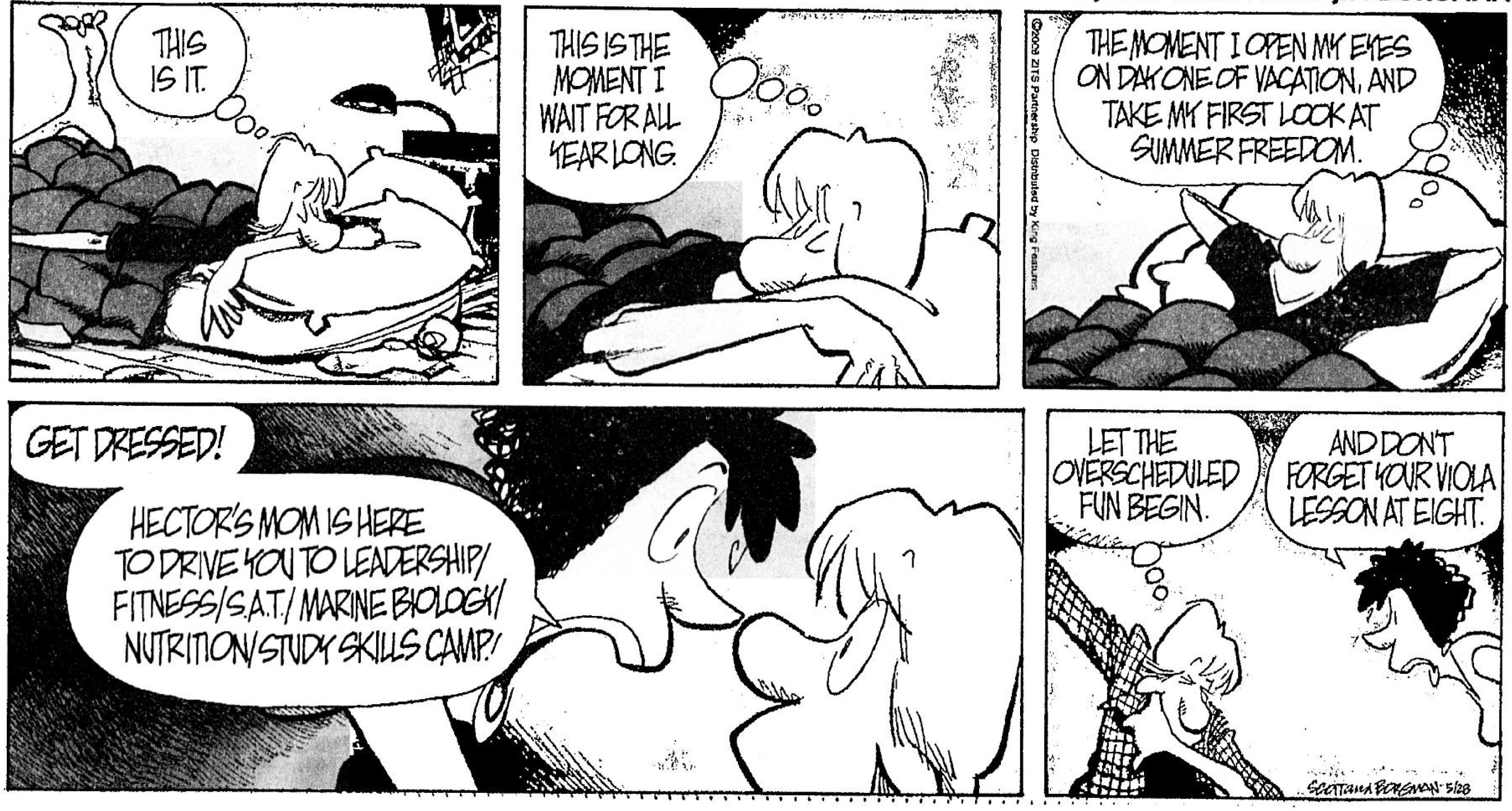
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OOPS, SORRY... I BLINKED.
5/28 ©2006 Grimmy, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc. grimmy.com
MIKE PETERS

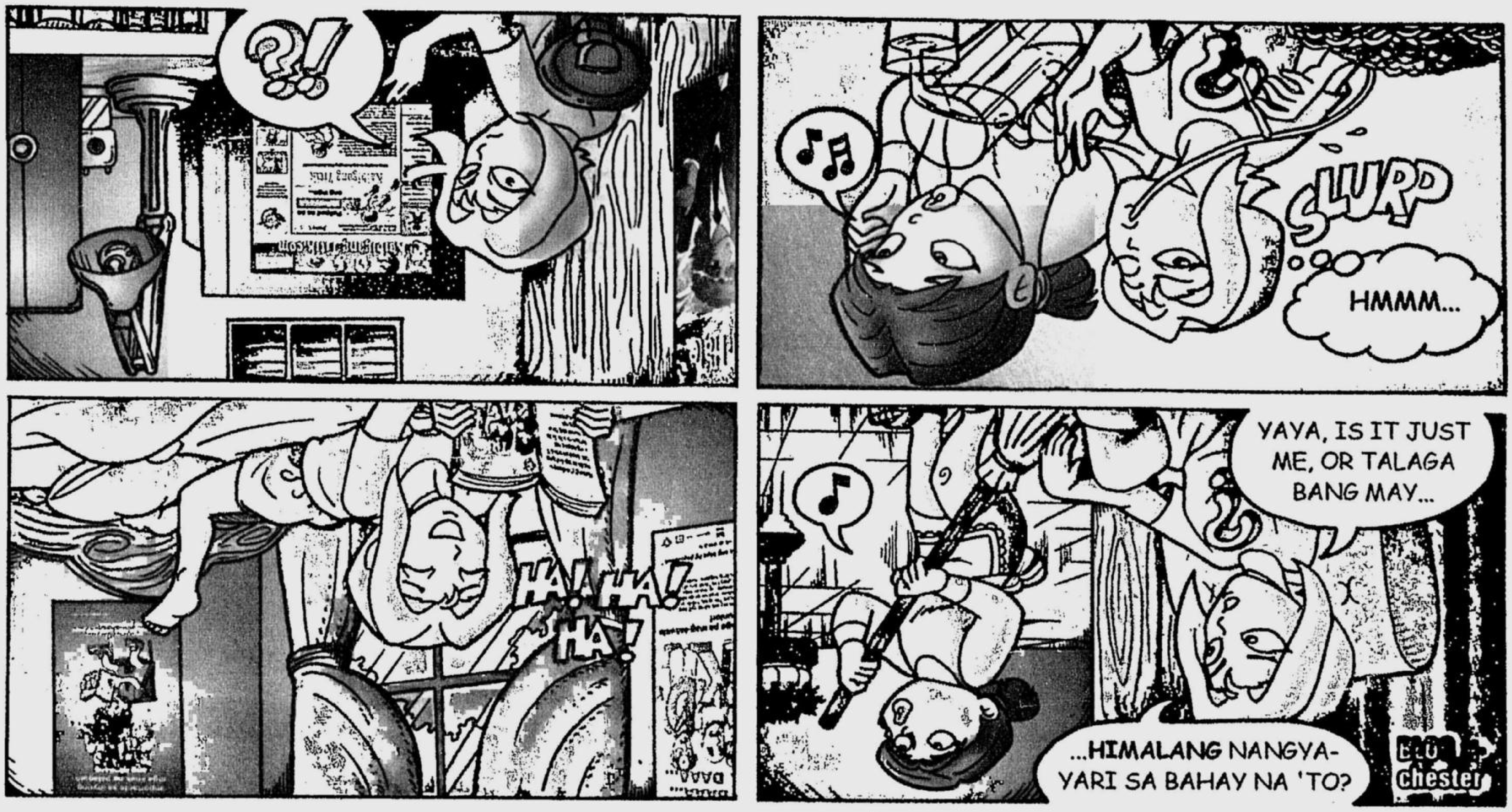
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


THIS IS IT.
THIS IS THE MOMENT I WAIT FOR ALL YEAR LONG.
©2006 ZITS Partnership Distributed by King Features
THE MOMENT I OPEN MY EYES ON DAY ONE OF VACATION, AND TAKE MY FIRST LOOK AT SUMMER FREEDOM.
GET DRESSED!
HECTOR'S MOM IS HERE TO DRIVE YOU TO LEADERSHIP/FITNESS/S.A.T./MARINE BIOLOGY/NUTRITION/STUDY SKILLS CAMP!
LET THE OVERSCHEDULED FUN BEGIN.
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR VIOLA LESSON AT EIGHT.
SCOTT and BORGMAN 5/28

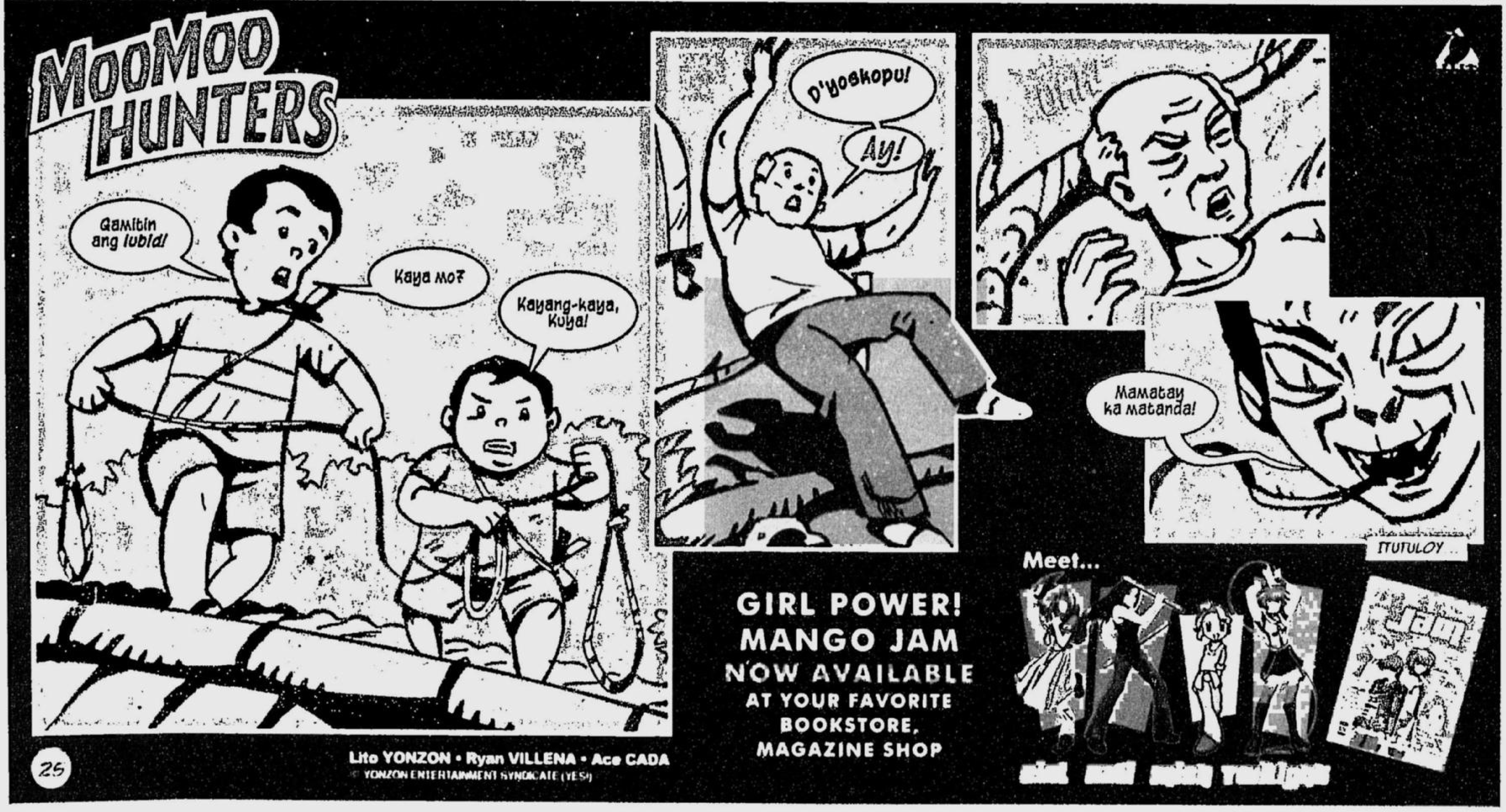
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


?!
♪♫
SLURP
HMMM...
HA! HA! HA!
♪
YAYA, IS IT JUST ME, OR TALAGA BANG MAY...
...HIMALANG NANGYAYARI SA BAHAY NA 'TO?
BLOG + chester

MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Gamitin ang lubid!
Kaya mo?
Kayang-kaya, Kuya!
D'yoskopu!
Ay!
Mamatay ka matanda!
ITUTULOY ...
25

Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA

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GIRL POWER!
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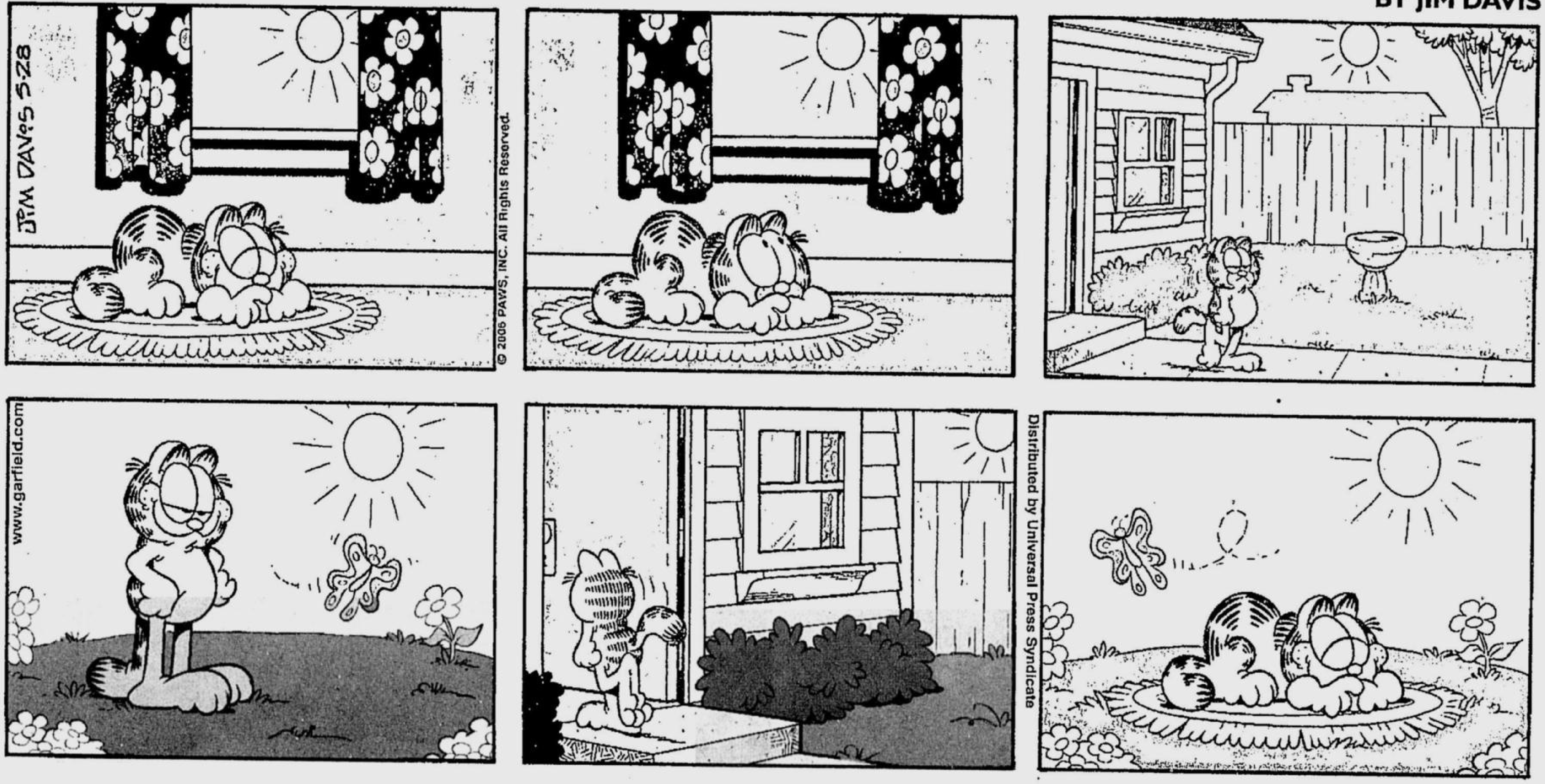
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


JIM DAVIS 5-28
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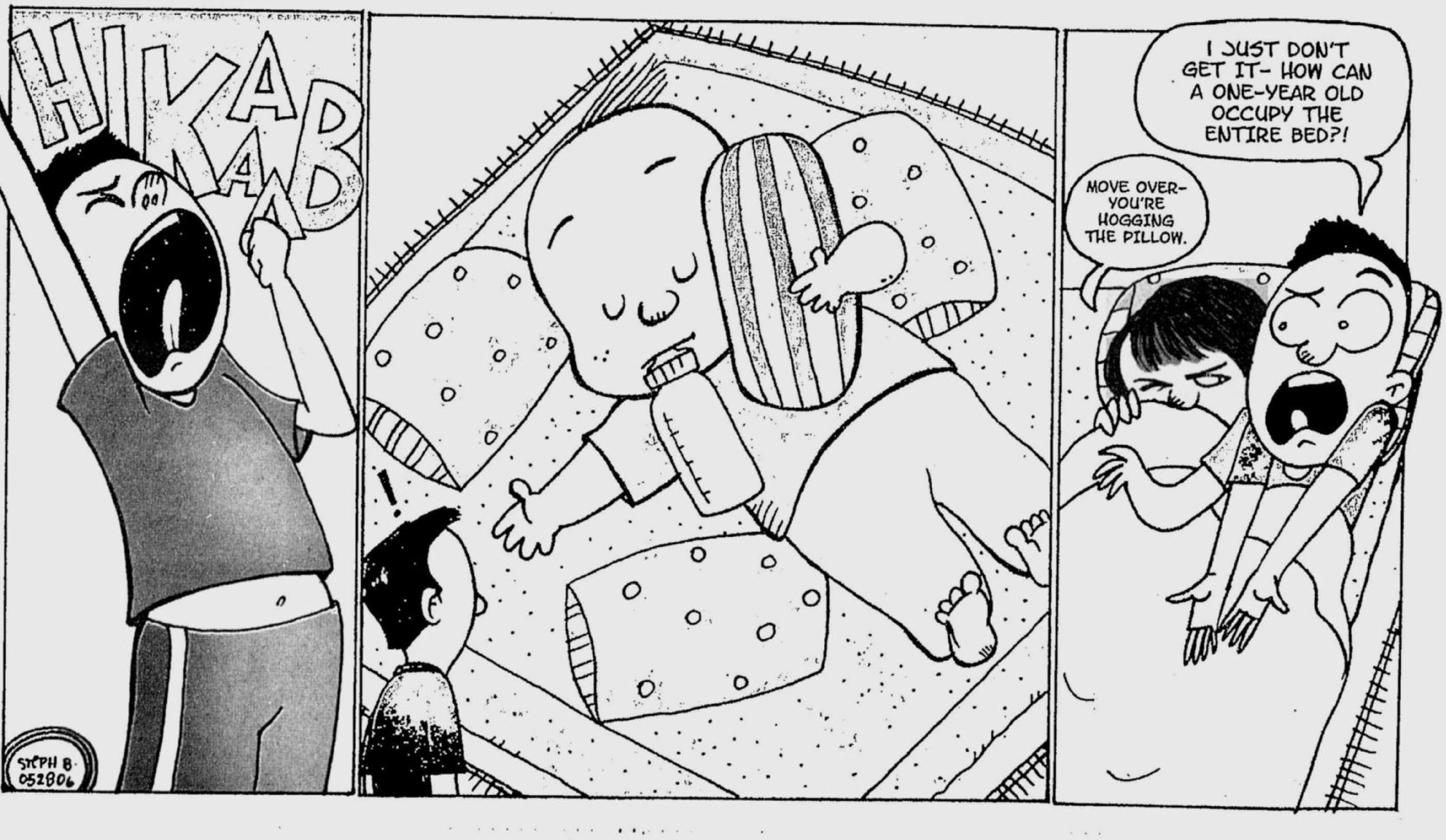
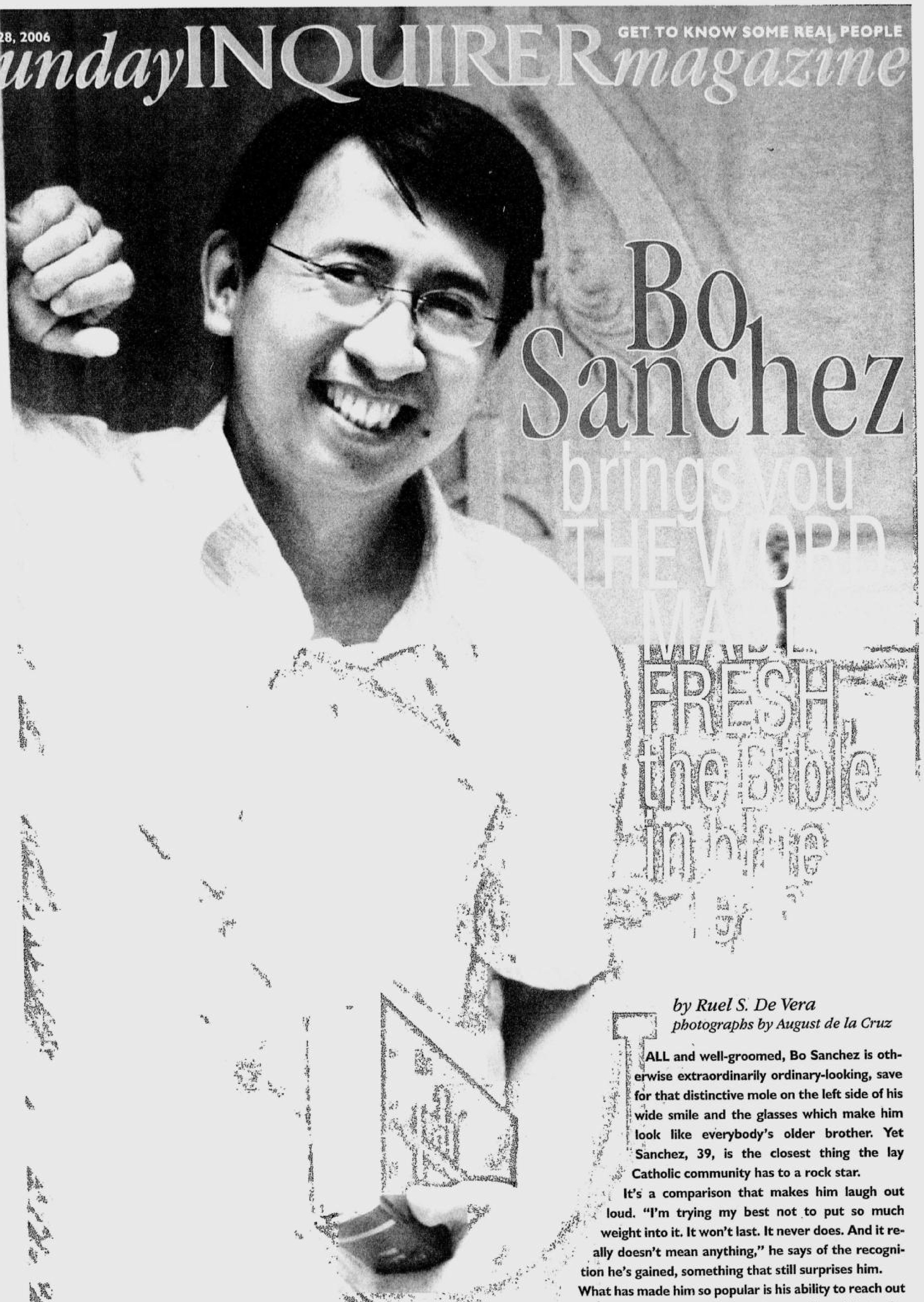
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


HIKAAAB
!
MOVE OVER- YOU'RE HOGGING THE PILLOW.
I JUST DON'T GET IT- HOW CAN A ONE-YEAR OLD OCCUPY THE ENTIRE BED?!
STEPH B. 052806

28, 2006
undayINQUIRERmagazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Bo Sanchez brings you THE WORD MADE FRESH, the Bible in blue [illegible]

by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by August de la Cruz

TALL and well-groomed, Bo Sanchez is otherwise extraordinarily ordinary-looking, save for that distinctive mole on the left side of his wide smile and the glasses which make him look like everybody's older brother. Yet Sanchez, 39, is the closest thing the lay Catholic community has to a rock star.

It's a comparison that makes him laugh out loud. "I'm trying my best not to put so much weight into it. It won't last. It never does. And it really doesn't mean anything," he says of the recognition he's gained, something that still surprises him.

What has made him so popular is his ability to reach out to younger Catholics through his preaching. His trademark style involves making teachings relevant to modern Filipinos, access as ascendant, the Bible in blue jeans. He does this though his funny essays, which are drawn from his own experiences. "I can only write about what I have gone through," he says.

His unabashedly inspirational pieces are essentially modern parables that depict him in witty, self-deprecating detail. "Words and a piece of paper can change a person's life," he notes.

This is the Word Made Fresh, courtesy of Bo Sanchez, whose writing has helped make Kerygma a top-selling magazine and Sanchez's books runaway hits, enabling him to reach an audience that is estimated to be in the millions. He can be heard over Radio Veritas and seen on RPN-9. His Light of Jesus Community counts thousands of members, and Sanchez's ministry has a growing online presence.

To page 2

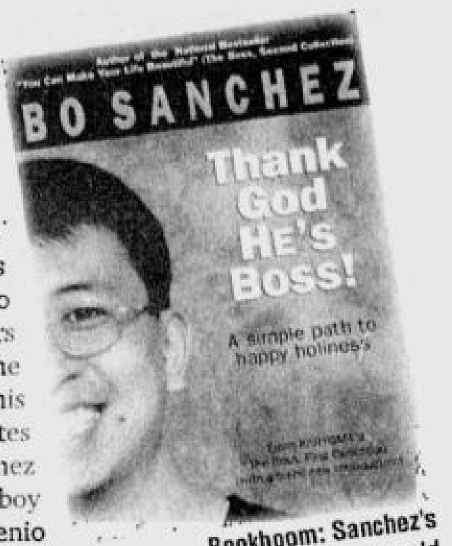
With his miraculously best-selling books and multiplying congregation, this young founder of the Light of Jesus Community is making the Catholic faith hip and attractive through his modern ministry—and his down-to-earth image

The star volleybelle, *p.3*

The life saver, *p.4*

The hotshot young politico, *p.6*

Bo...from page 1



Bookboom: Sanchez's seven books have sold almost half a million copies

His name, Bo, is derived from "Boy of Gene." But his complete name is Eugenio Isabelo Tomas Reyes Sanchez, a name so kilometric he remembers how, as a first-grader, he would still be writing his name when his classmates were already done. Sanchez is the youngest and only boy among accountant Eugenio and homemaker Pilar's six children. "We were a normal family who bickered over who got the chicken drumstick, but we did pray the Rosary every night and went to Mass in our little car every Sunday," he says.

Conversation with the Divine

Perhaps the prototypical, most oft-repeated Bo Sanchez story involves how he discovered that prayer was indeed powerful.

He was 12, and his parents had asked him to go to a prayer meeting with them; Sanchez said no. So his father said, "If Bo doesn't want to go to the prayer meeting, we'll bring the prayer meeting to Bo."

Thus, after one Rosary session, his father announced that the Sanchezes were going to have a prayer meeting at home. Sanchez balked; "Starsky and Hutch" was on that night, after all. But when his father, instead of reciting memorized prayers, spoke his thoughts aloud, as if in conversation with the Divine, Sanchez was floored.

"I looked at the peace on my father's face and realized he actually believed God was listening to him," Sanchez says. "I didn't want to admit it, but watching him made me feel warm inside."

By the next year, Sanchez was leading prayer groups. "It was fun," he recalls. "Looking back, I made lots and lots of mistakes, but I learned from them." In 1980, Sanchez took the next big step by founding the Light of Jesus Community. "We wanted to have a prayer group in our garage," he says. "So we invited friends and neighbors and had our first prayer meeting of 20 people. But as the years went by, we knew in our hearts we couldn't just pray. We had to go into the world and be Jesus in the world."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family tight: Bo with (left to right) Marowe, Francis and Benedict

Even in high school in Claret, Sanchez was already preaching. "Father Bo," his classmates would call him. He earned a degree in AB Philosophy from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1989, eventually taking up masteral units in theology. He then went into preaching and writing full-time.

Light of Jesus, like a virus of divinity, spread. Today, the community can muster as many as 10,000 people at their open gatherings. According to Sanchez, the community has three thrusts: serving the poor through their various ministries; sharing God's love through modern media such as TV, print and the Internet; and building communities all over.

That last point, in a way, helps define Light of Jesus. Sanchez's newest innovations are his Soulfood Letter, a free monthly e-mail reflection, and the virtual Kerygma Family, which he hopes will reach over 100,000 members. "If you have a message to share—and you believe in that message—you want to use every means available to you," he says. "And if the world is using the most modern technology to espouse its gospel of materialism and sin, we need to use this technology for good."

The Burning Bush has gone binary.

Addicted to sex

The road to Damascus has not been easy for Sanchez, despite the fervor in his preachings. He was sexually abused, first by a cousin and then by a prayer group leader. "I was 8, and it happened again when I was 13. That's a very dark part of my history, and caused me to have a very perverted way of thinking about sex. Even while I was trying to serve the Lord, I was addicted to sex," he explains. It tore at him for years, as he alternated between devoted service and an attraction to pornography. He found healing later when he realized that God still loved him, he says.

He was in his 20s when he overcame his addiction, right on the heels of his most tumultuous struggle with his problem. "But you never really get over that, so I always tell others, 'I am a recovering sex addict,' not 'I was a recovering sex addict.'"

This is one of those stories about himself that Sanchez is not afraid to talk or write about, where his honesty and openness part seas. "I always tried to be honest with my audience," he says, often telling others about his struggles. "I sometimes wonder why they're listening to me at all." Sanchez found that talking about his experiences came naturally to him.

The most obvious impact that he has is in his writings, something he began as a teenager. "I write very simply and tell stories," Sanchez says. "I want to speak the language of my audience. It comes naturally."

In 1990, Sanchez found a way to share his thoughts by publishing a magazine that featured tales of inspiration. Originally given out for free, Kerygma today sells almost 50,000 issues monthly through Shepherd's Voice Publications, which also publishes the Bible guide Didache, among other titles.

By collecting his essays, Sanchez has published seven books with such titles as "You Can Make Your Life Beautiful," and says he has sold almost half a million books. "And to think I got an F in my essay writing class in college," he says with a laugh. "An empty computer screen is very attractive to me, and I just type whatever comes to my mind. Just write and write and write. And then edit like anything."

Big following

Gwenn Galvez, marketing manager for Anvil Publishing, notes that inspirational literature enjoys healthy patronage among local readers. "Filipinos are highly spiritual; they like reading books that explain passages from the Bible," she says. "We have observed that when times are hard, inspirational books are one of the top-selling categories." But Galvez notes that Sanchez has some advantages that help make him a best-selling author: "Bo Sanchez is a high-profile speaker. He is young, voluble and is one of the more sensible 'evangelizers' who has well-prepared lectures. He has a big following among the Catholic charismatic groups."

Bo takes a page from his favorite book

The other benchmark would be the formidable organization he's built from ground up. Light of Jesus has ministries such as Anawim, which takes care of the impoverished, the elderly, and the abandoned, and Light of Jesus has even linked up with Gawad Kalinga to build homes. Christian Esguerra, who writes about the Catholic Church for the INQUIRER, explains that "groups like Sanchez's help reenergize the faith, making it more relevant and contextual. They demystify the common belief that the exercise of one's faith rests solely on the guidance of a priest. These groups deliver the important message that the Church is not just the Vatican or diocesan hierarchy. More importantly, it's the people. I see them as a priest's able assistants in his pastoral ministry."

Immersed in the world

Sanchez, a most recognizable assistant, is also an avid businessman who is into several ventures. "I believe that lay Catholics should be immersed in the world—for that's the only way to sanctify it. And I also believe that one of the most important solutions to the poverty of the Philippines is to raise up more microentrepreneurs."

He makes sure that everything about his business and ministry is separate and transparent. "Yes, there have been many religious groups that abuse their position and make money. That's why I don't handle the finances of my organizations. At any time, anyone can look at the books. We're also audited by a reputable audit company. My small businesses are totally separate."

Aside from the seminars, speeches and his other regular duties, Sanchez is excited about his new book, "How To Find Your One True Love," due out next month. "It's a book for singles in need of guidance on how to attract God's best for their lives," he says.

He is not only incredibly busy, but also private. People can only contact him through e-mail, as he prefers to keep his family life close to his chest. He is married to Marowe with whom he has two children, Benedict, 6, and Francis, 1.

It is with his family that this preacher man's stories have happy endings, where the world is all right. "I bring my wife out on a romantic date at least once a week, many times twice a week, and I play with my children," Bo Sanchez says, simply but surely. "That to me is Heaven." Q

For more information about Bo Sanchez, log on to http://www.bosanchez.ph.

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Salita

Sa simula kasama ng Diyos ang Salita
at ang Salita ay Diyos.

Nang magkatawang tao ang Salita,
naisulat ang maraming talata
tungkol sa kanyang buhay at gawa.

Nagkuwento ng mga tala si Mateo
May diskurso sa pag-ibig si Pablo
At di naman nagpahuli si Pedro.

Sa kalauna'y hinahati-hati ito
sa kapitulo at bersikulo
inilimbag, isinalin, at isinaulo.

Hanggang ngayon
pinag-uusapan pa rin ang Salita
sa radyo, telebisyon o sa pulpito

sumusugat pa rin ito tulad ng punglo
tumatama na parang mga ligaw na palaso
at ipinupukol ng bawat kampo

na parang mga bato
sa ngalan ng pagpapatotoo.

Kristian S. Cordero

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

I COULDN'T decipher what message the author wanted to point out in writing about the woman who is a namesake of the former First Lady and who finds it amusing that she is a namesake of the great woman who is Imelda ("The Other Imelda Marcos," **SIM**, 21 May 2006). Why, was it Imelda's fault that you were named by your parents after her? What is laughable about the name? I have never seen even Cory Aquino sneer when she heard the name Imelda Marcos. And I haven't seen any person snicker when hearing the former First Lady's name. Maybe it is just you who snicker because you are very proud to be a namesake of Imelda. While we don't revere Imelda Marcos as much as the late President here in Ilocos, most of us here look up to the family name with worship and consider the former president our hero. Many of you may disagree, but ask our politicians who the greatest Filipino President is, and they will say Marcos.

Hey, Ms. Imelda Marcos, you should be proud that you are gaining recognition because of your namesake and not blame your parents. I wouldn't snicker myself if I meet one person with the name Benigno Aquino.

FREDERICK DULAY
Greenville Subd., Baroro, Bacnotan, La Union
dickdulay@gmail.com

THE RIGHT ARRANGER

Nice article on Sitti ("Is Manila Ready for a New Bossa Nova Babe?," **SIM**, 21 May 2006). However, with regards the album you mentioned, Francis Albert Sinatra with Antonio Carlos Jobim, the arrangement is NOT by Eumir Deodato but by German conductor/arranger, Claus Ogerman. It's an excellent album, though.

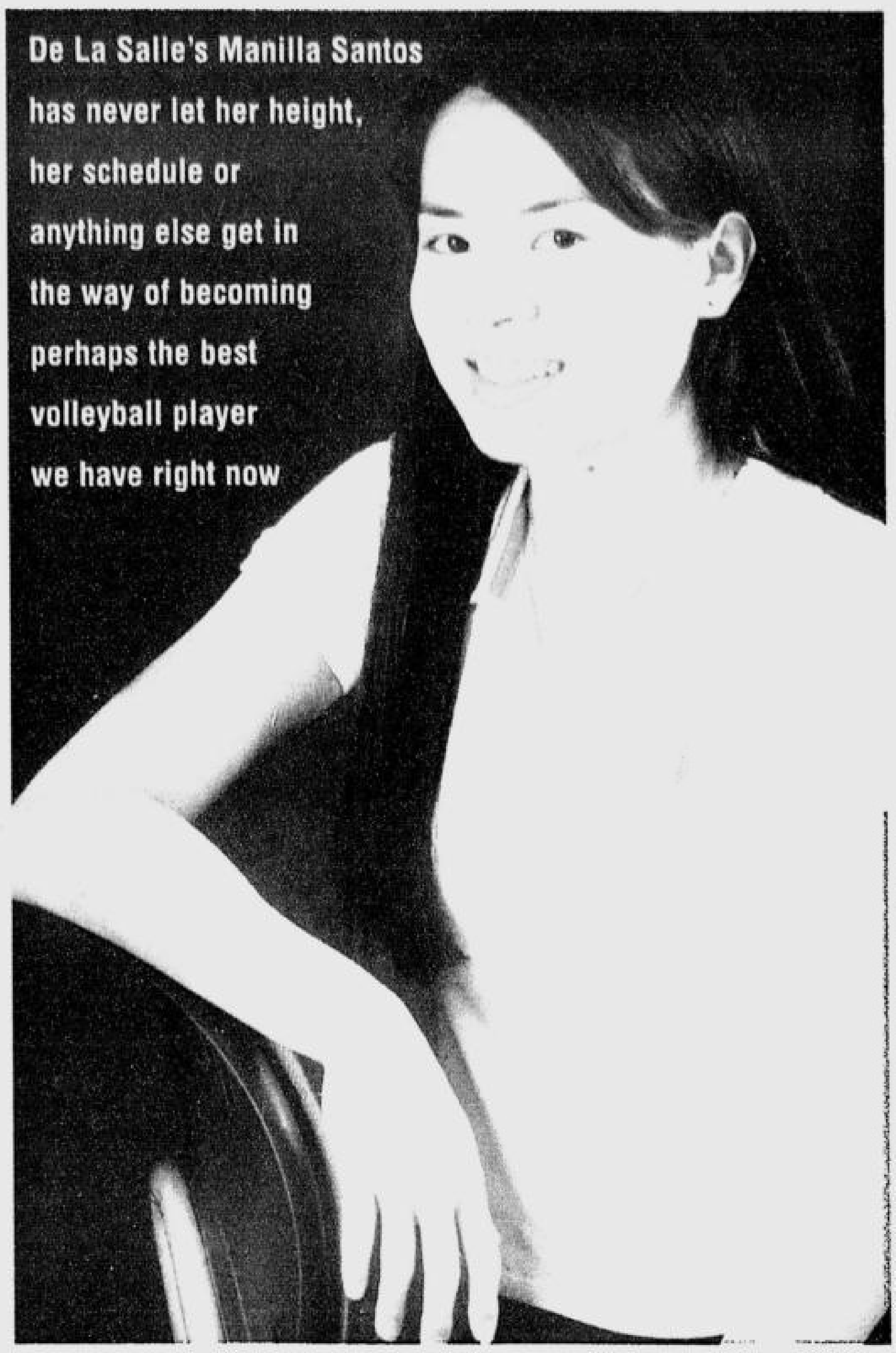
RENE VILLARTA
renvill2@yahoo.com

I stand corrected. I was probably thinking of "Sinatra and Company," the Chairman's second collaboration with Jobim, two years later. Thanks.-Eric S. Caruncho

All in the Game

by Jasmine W. Payo
photographs by Ryan Lim

No big ego, just big hits for this star volleybelle



De La Salle's Manilla Santos has never let her height, her schedule or anything else get in the way of becoming perhaps the best volleyball player we have right now

IT'S not that she's allergic to the attention. When adoring fans ask for her autograph, Manilla Santos confesses that she gets quite shy.

"I'm worried that I might come off as a snob, but I try to be friendly," she says.

Santos' caution, in fact, is within reason. As the senior volleyball star of De La Salle University, she had her own share of overzealous supporters.

"Right now when someone asks for my number, I just answer 14, my jersey number," she laughs. "It's flattering. Some people have asked for autographs, some just talk to me. They approach me in the mall and even in the LRT. They'll say, 'I think I know you..' And then they'll remember they've seen me on TV."

Next to Santos' phone number, perhaps the next popular question is why she's named after the country's notoriously busy capital.

"It's an Italian flower," Santos points out.

Impressive power

But all the recognition she has been receiving is certainly warranted. More than just making volleyball games look pretty, she packs her spikes with impressive power. And at 5'4" ("And a half," she adds. "Still hoping to be 5'5"), Santos may be shorter but no less effective on court.

"In high school, I used to be taller than most players. But in college it's different. Height is might in most sports. That's why I had a harder time in college," she notes.

That claim, though, barely showed. With her natural jumping ability, Santos can outplay towering and even more athletic opponents.

"They've been telling me since high school that I jump high, but of course I've never seen it. So when I saw myself on TV, I was really surprised that I can jump that high," she shares .

Santos has been quite unmindful of the credits heaped on her. What amuses her, in fact, is the stereotypical perception she gets.

"When I'm in my casual clothes, *hindi ako mukhang Amazona* (I don't look athletic)," she quips. "Some of my classmates are surprised when they learn that I'm an athlete. That pushes me to work harder."

"*Dapat palakihin pa ang hita* (I need to make my legs bigger)," she adds, laughing.

But once on court, Santos obligingly proves that she's not too absorbed in keeping her figure slender or her long hair model-straight.

After all, she has been working on her game with passion ever since she picked up the sport as a fourth grader at Hope Christian High School.

"My sister encouraged me to play volleyball; she was in the varsity team," shares Santos. "The coach saw I had potential. Even when I was in elementary, I was already training with the high school team."

It also didn't hurt that she inherited some athletic genes from her Chinese father Rudy and Bicolana mother Lourdes.

Back-to-back

"My dad is into dirt biking, he owns a lot of bikes," she says. "My mom was also a volleyball player in high school."

Not surprisingly, when the promising teen powered her high school squad to its first ever championship crown in 2002, volleyball scouts already listed her on their wish list.

There was no lack of offers, but Santos opted to accept the full scholarship from La Salle. She joined a team overflowing with talent, yet her innate skills propped her up for four seasons.

At 21, she has certified her high-profile status with three straight championships in the UAAP, back-to-back titles in the Shakey's V-League and numerous individual awards ("Best Spiker, MVP, Mythical Six," she enumerates).

Equally impressive, Santos is chasing a degree in business management the way she chases a ball on court.

"If I excel in volleyball, I also want to excel in my studies," she stresses. "As much as possible, I want to get honors, but our training is hard. Even if I want to push myself, sometimes I can't think any more when I'm tired. But my grades are okay. Honestly, I still find it difficult to be a student athlete, especially now that I'm graduating."

With the tough juggling act, Santos admits her enthusiasm for the game occasionally falters.

"Many times I've thought of quitting, mainly because of my studies," she confesses. "When I tell my parents about it, they remind me it's a gift from God, I should use my talent. So it's all about time management."

Not everything, though, is straight business for Santos. While most athletes try to maintain unbelievable focus on game days, she has her own pregame quirks.

Start of success

"I go to the mall, watch a movie. That's how I relax. If I just stay home, I feel more restless. During stretching, that's when I really focus," she shares.

Losing, though, is a different matter. It clearly affects her, she says, but she tries to take it in stride.

"It's okay to lose. Sometimes failure is the start of success," she muses. "But once I fail in something, I don't want it to happen again. If we lose in a game, I work harder in training."

So when the UAAP suspended La Salle in all sports this year for fielding ineligible basketball players, Santos and the rest of her teammates took it quite hard.

It would have been a grand finish for Santos as La Salle shoots for its fourth straight title in her senior year.

"The UAAP is different, that's our real focus," she points out. "I have one more playing year, but with the suspension, *sayang* (what a waste). I have many batchmates in our team."

Fortunately, off-season competitions including the Shakey's V-League have kept Santos' spirits up. The televised tournament discovered an untapped audience that surprised Santos herself.

"Before it was just all basketball. But with the V-League, it changed. I enjoy the games. When the crowd shouts your name, it's fun," she says.

But unlike basketball amateurs, local volleyball players usually end their careers at the collegiate level. So Santos has carefully measured her options.

"After graduation, I want to work, maybe I'll go corporate," she states. "But sports groups are also eyeing a professional league. It's feasible. If you see the audiences in the V-League, they fill up the Rizal Coliseum. It's jampacked. So if a commercial league comes up, why not?"

La Salle
14
9
14

Santos in the thick of V-League Action

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Survivors' Tales

by Nikko Dizon

Giving his all to save a life

It's all in a day's work, but to Air Force Capt. Roman Dioso, former squadron commander of the 505th 2nd Search and Rescue Team, certified adventurer and one of the first men in Leyte after the killer landslide, no other job can be quite as fulfilling

S HIS Sikorsky rescue helicopter hovered over the mudslide, Philippine Air Force (PAF) Capt. Roman Dioso knew that he was looking at one of the worst disasters to hit the country.

Dioso, 35, was among the first rescuers at the site of the deadly landslide that entombed the entire village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte last Feb. 17.

As squadron commander of the PAF 505th 2nd Search and Rescue (SAR) Team at that time, he was the first official to report to Manila that more than a thousand people were most likely buried under tons of mud, boulder, and trees that encased the village.

Soon, other search and rescue teams from around the world joined the PAF unit in digging into the thick, heavy mud as fast as they could in a desperate attempt to save as many lives as they could.

Nearly four months after the tragedy, the memories of Guinsaugon remain fresh in Dioso's mind. He was correct in his initial estimate: less than a hundred residents survived the landslide. The death toll was placed at nearly a thousand.

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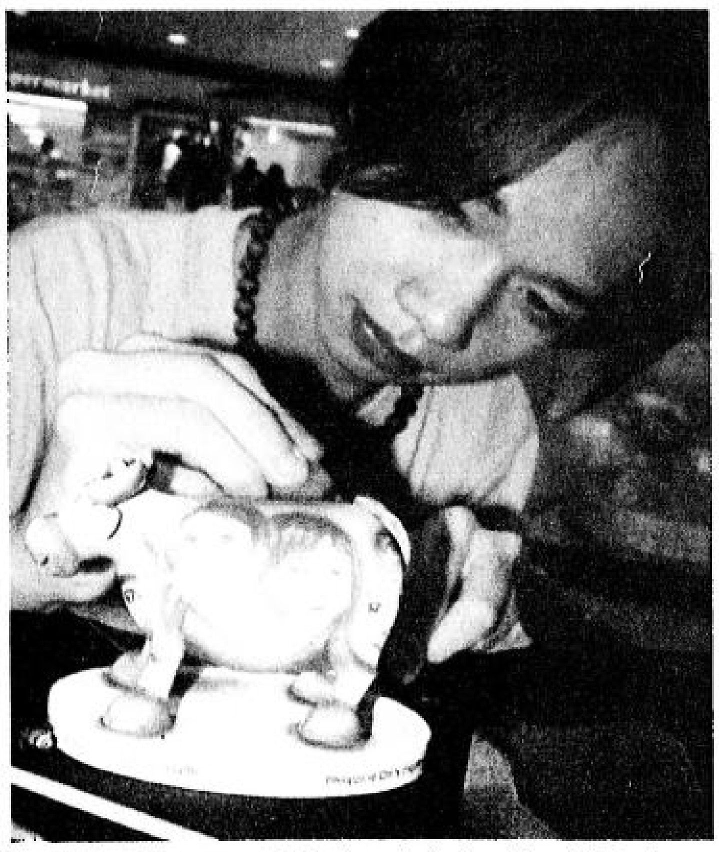
Celebrating "The Power of Knowing":

Guyito Touches Hearts, Both Young and Old



A 17-year-old boy from UST intricately designs his mini Guyito

By Marco Tobias Sumayao

A cartoon carabao takes the spotlight as the Philippine Daily INQUIRER celebrates Guyito, the publication's official mascot. Often seen on the front page with a smile and a witty comment, Guyito has long been one of the most recognizable faces of the INQUIRER. Guyito's appeal reaches audiences both young and old, and because of this, the INQUIRER, in line with its 20th anniversary celebration, has decided to salute the clever carabao.

One of the more recent events to commemorate Guyito is Guyito's Knowledge Trip, a mall tour designed to promote reading and the innate creativity of the Filipino. The recently-concluded stop at Market! Market! has shown that Guyito appeals across all generations. Such was the case with the father-daughter team of Andres and Analona Soles, who participated in the event's Paint-Your-Own-Guyito activity. The 63-year-old Andres brought 8-year-old Analona for some daddy-daughter bonding time. The two shared precious moments together as they decorated their mini-Guyito, Andres guiding his daughter as her little hands playfully added color to the sculpture. Andres appeared to enjoy every second as he watched his daughter's eyes widen with delight. Analona's curious gaze seemed to warm the heart of her father, and it was a touching sight to behold.

Just as touching was the story shared by early bird Elizabeth Camua, who patiently waited for hours before the mall even opened, just to get a chance to paint a Guyito. Camua, a mother in her forties, had been at Market! Market! since 9 a.m. so she would be sure to get her hands on the lovable mascot. She was the first person to register and immediately hurried into the activity area. She then delicately painted her Guyito sculptures for nearly five hours. It was then that she told the INQUIRER why Guyito had such a special place in her heart—her very own son, a young man who is currently in the USA, shares his name with the INQUIRER's mascot. She had been thrilled to learn that the INQUIRER was holding the event; she had always loved to paint, and painting Guyito reminded her of her beloved son. When the time came for her to go home, her husband treated her by getting her two more mini-Guyitos to paint at home. Camua was overjoyed, just as she was as she applied each loving brushstroke on her work of art.

A Warm Reception

Other guests at Market! Market! gave the event their thumbs-up. Bong Laureano, 33, joined in the festivities as he took his opportunity to put his own unique spin on Guyito. He was impressed by the Knowledge Trip, saying "*Natutuwa ako sa* project *na ito dahil nailalabas ng Pilipino ang* talent *at* creativity *nila* (I am delighted by this project because it allows Filipinos to showcase their talent and creativity)." Erwin P. Elazegui, a 28-year-old Chemistry professor at the Technological University of the Philippines-Manila, has always been an avid participant at INQUIRER events and was very much thrilled by this one. Perhaps the best review was the smiles of all the guests who attended the event. Nary a disappointed face was seen at the activity area, as the guests were either deeply engrossed in their artwork, or jumping with joy at the fun activities.

Fun and Games

The INQUIRER made sure everyone had a good time at Market! Market!, providing lots of merriment and giving away tons of freebies. Registering at the event with one Guyito Knowledge Trip coupon also qualified guests for a free INQUIRER gift and a chance in win in raffles held regularly each day of the tour. Lucky winners received exclusive INQUIRER goodies, including bags and director's chairs. Those who availed themselves of a mini-Guyito also received a free gift, courtesy of the INQUIRER. Guests entered the activity area through a spell-binding tunnel chronicling the 20 years of excellence of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER. Once inside, guests were treated to complimentary drinks from Nestle's Chuckie and cereal from Kellogg's. Guyito, Chuckie, and Tony the Tiger themselves came up to the stage to entertain the guests with their energetic dance numbers, before going down to the painting area for hugs and pictures. Children shrieked with glee as they hurried to the colorful mascots, delighting in the chance to meet these larger-than-life characters.

Paint Your Own Guyito

Guests at the mall tour are welcome to create their very own masterpiece, as thousands of white miniature Guyitos will be made available, along with painting kits to decorate them. Participants in the activity are encouraged to be as creative as possible, as the Knowledge Trip is a venue to show the Filipino's power to achieve excellence through art. This is also a chance for guests to put their own flavor on the beloved carabao, designing him in any way they choose. Painting Guyito has also been proven an engaging activity, as guests can literally lose track of the time as they decorate their mini-sculptures, or as they admire the work of others. Parents and grandparents spend

To page 7

Guyito dances with Nestle's Chuckie and Kellogs' Tony the Tiger to the delight of the participants.

Left to right: Jessie Rebustillo, PDI Classifieds Division Head; Joy Tabuso, SM Megamall Branch Manager-PDI Classifieds; Aileen Garcia, Cubao Branch Manager PDI Classifieds; Lulu Diaz, PDI Classifieds Sales Manager; Chito San Mateo, Corporate Relations Officer; Megi Garcia, Corporate Relations Assistant; Rene Reinoso, SVP for Sales and Marketing; and Connie Kalagayan, Strategic Marketing Communications Manager

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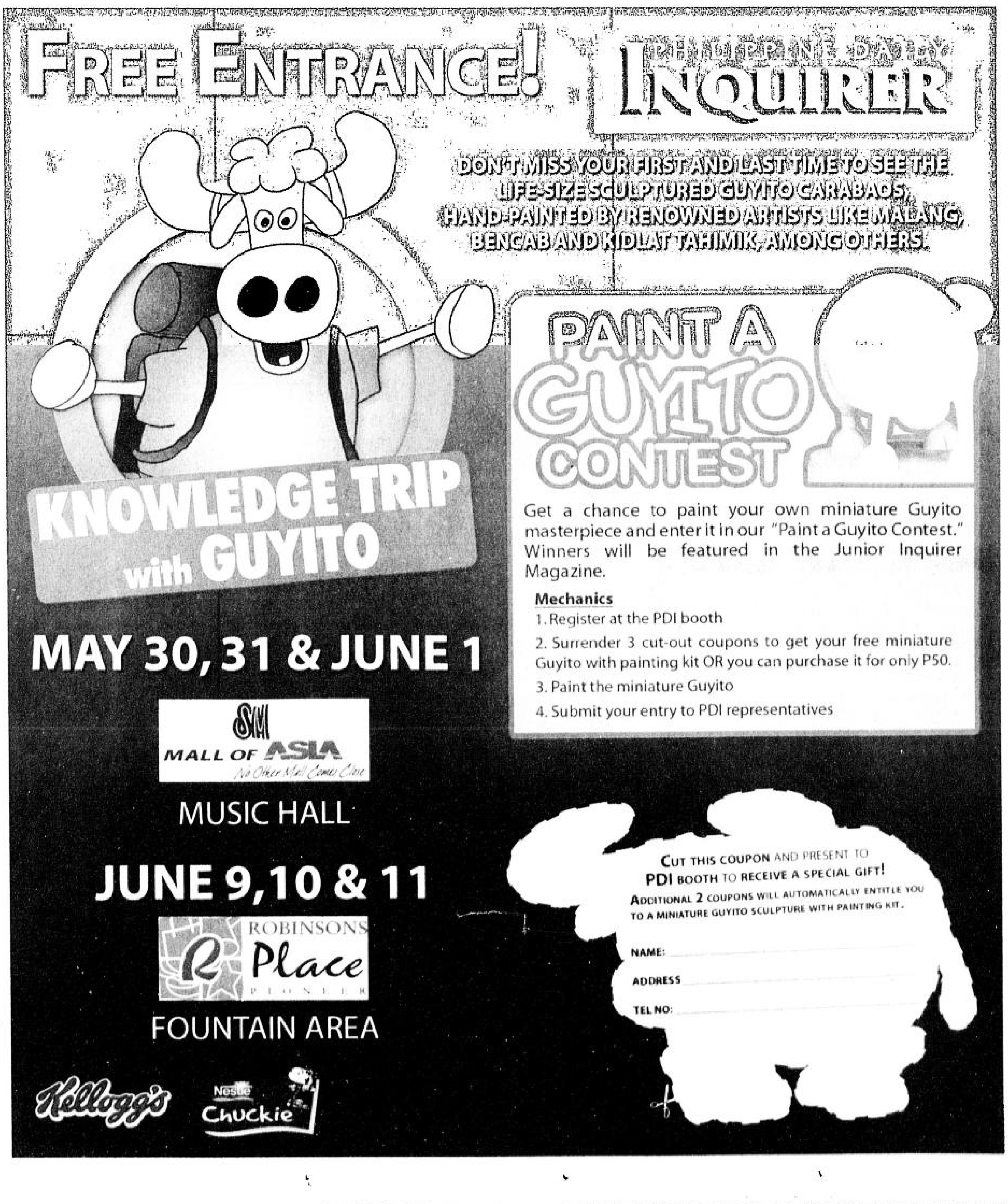

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Text and photographs
by Arlyn dela Cruz

Congressman Chiz Escudero may look like a boy, but he's clearly in charge

Power, position are his for the asking

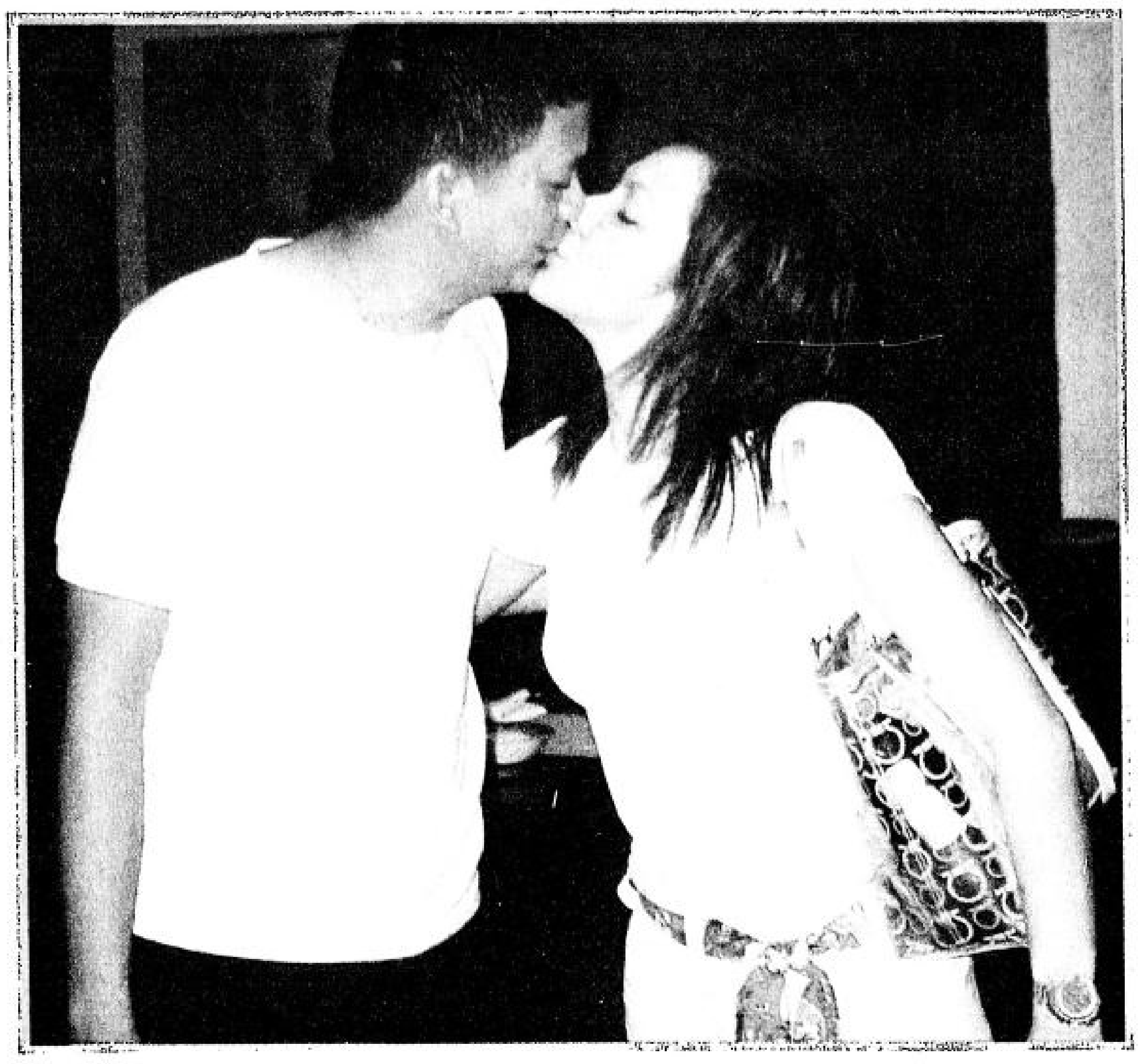
ADDRESSED as "Bosing" by his peers in the House of Representatives, Minority Floor Leader and Sorsogon Representative Francis "Chiz" Escudero is clearly in charge of his block, his career and his life.

The guy on top of another impeachment rap against the President is definitely a man of the '80s, a music man who still remembers the lyrics of songs like "Boys Do Fall In Love."

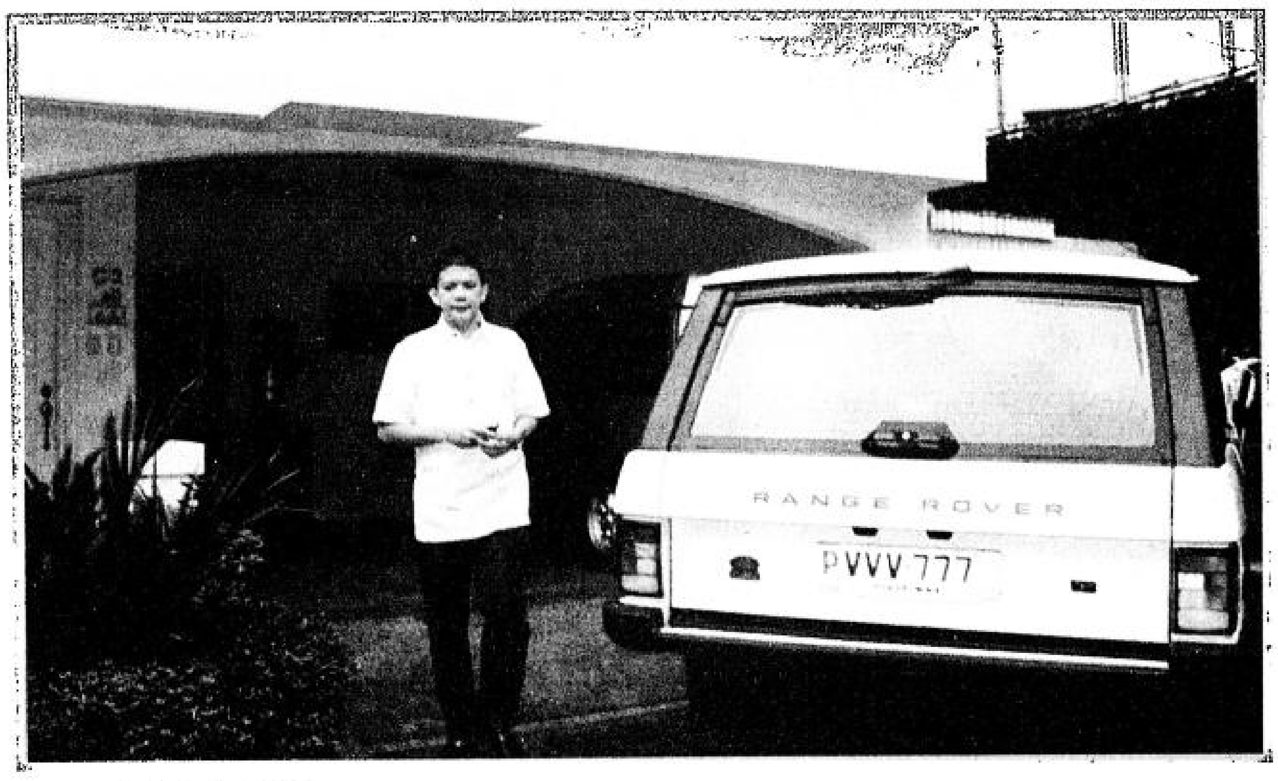
The song is something he is probably humming this morning when he kisses wife Christine goodbye as she goes off to Cebu. Interviewed by various radio anchors, Chiz is a serious and firm opposition leader. He turns into a keen observer and listener amongst more senior opposition leaders by the middle of the day, a proud car owner the next hour and an intrepid speaker on the floor as he scrutinizes the proposed budget for the Presidential Management Staff.

Wrapping up the day, Chiz quotes a line from the Kevin Costner movie "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, they will come."

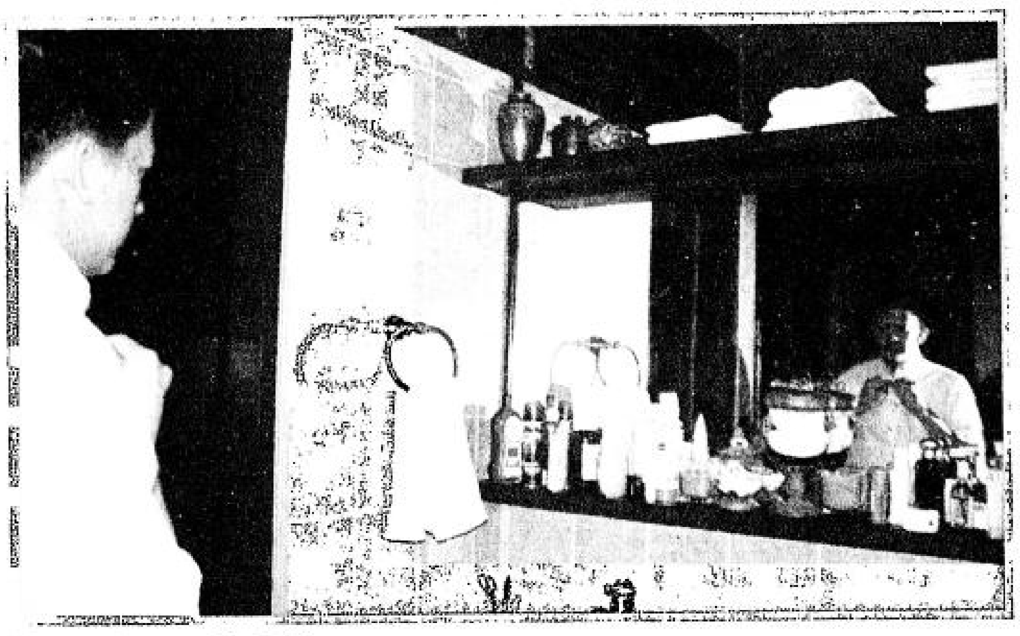
By the wee hours of the next morning, he makes a mental note to wake up in a few hours for an early appointment with foreign correspondents. Standing at the door of his two-story townhouse in Quezon City, Chiz appears to be every inch a young boy at heart, hardly the man on the threshold of a full-blown political career where power, position and prestige are his for the asking.



Sweet start. 5:35 a.m.: Chiz kisses wife Christine goodbye, as she's off to Cebu. He calls her his "only baby."



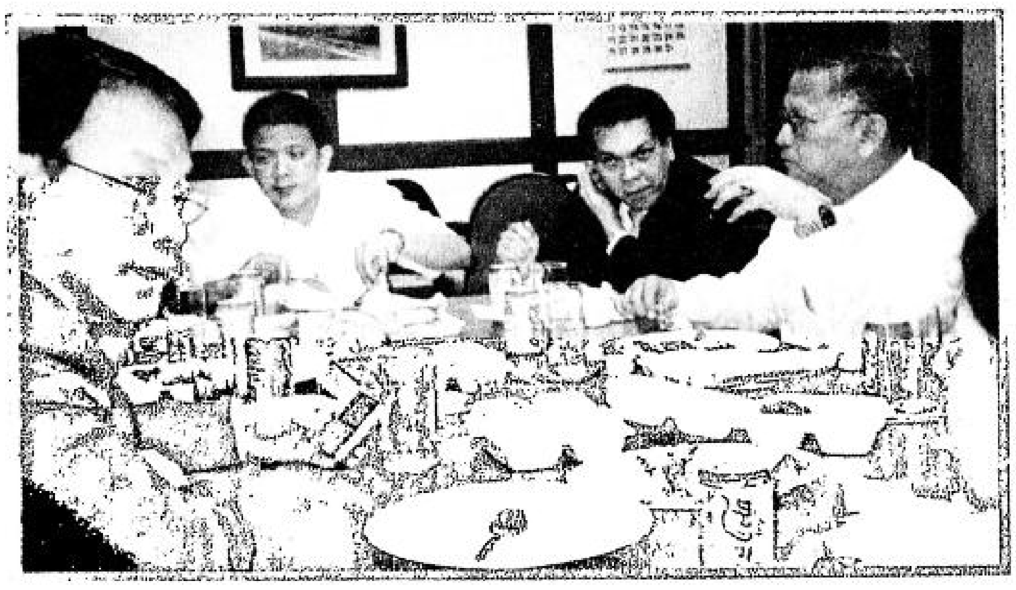
No special plate. 8:05 a.m.: Chiz gets ready to board his vehicle, which doesn't carry a lawmaker's plate number. He purchased the second-hand "vintage" 1987 Range Rover for P350,000, partly because of the interesting plate number



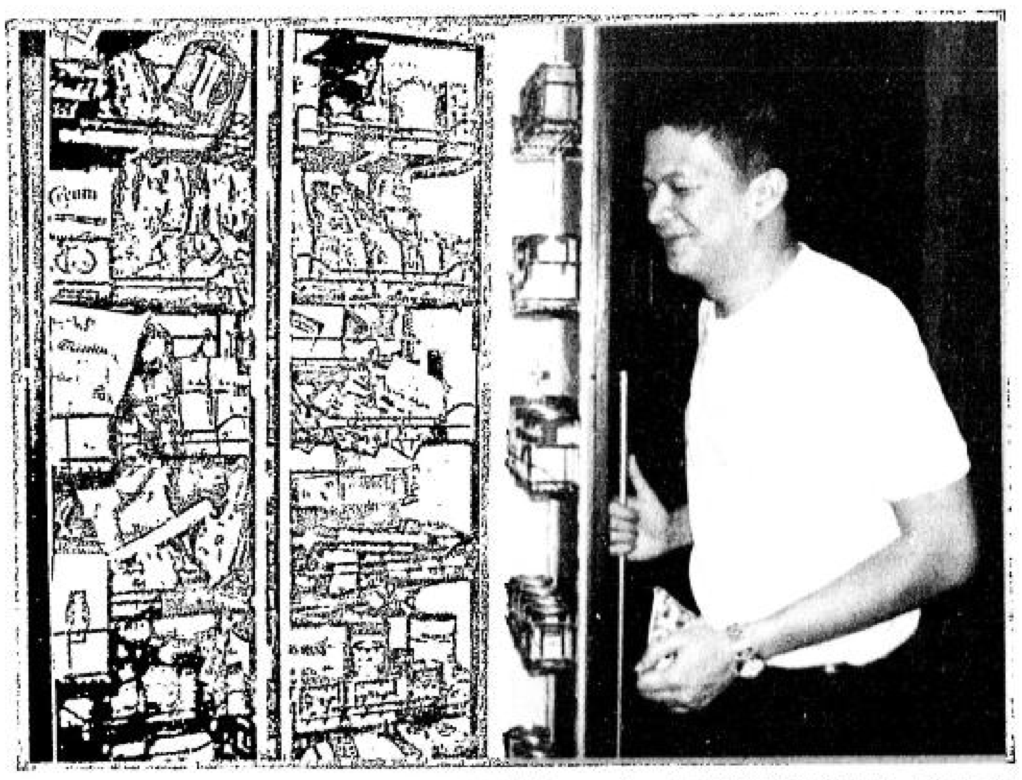
The perfect outfit. 6:55 a.m.: He takes a quick shower and decides what to wear in a jiffy—a white short-sleeved barong for the day, but a long-sleeved version for the session hall later on

Diplomatic response. 2:55 p.m.: During an interview with House reporters, Chiz dodges a question on a comment by his father, former Agriculture Secretary Salvador Escudero, on alleged vote-buying by Sen. Jamby Madrigal

With the boys. 10:15 p.m.: Chiz chugs a beer with his frat brods from Alpha Phi Beta at a reunion in Sulo Hotel



Pow-wow. 8:05 p.m.: It's dinner with the "enemy," a gathering that includes Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes and Tarlac Representative Jesli Lapus



Junk food addict. 1:45 a.m.: Showing off a stash of junk food, from chips to candies, with the delighted demeanor of a college boy

Boy at heart? 2:10 a.m.: Maybe so, but he's got power, position and prestige waiting for him if he plays his cards right

Solid Places

by Cecille Tuble, RC

An otherworldly falling in love

Too often we've encountered the eternally grumpy Father or the perpetually cold Sister. But these "frozen delights" only prove that the religious life is not a shelter for the broken-hearted

MY FRIEND Mau looks every bit like your typical, twentysomething hip and handsome fellow. He is almost always garbed in jeans and T-shirt, with the requisite backpack slung casually over one shoulder. He drives a rather beat-up red car which seems to have (or so he claims) a particular weakness for red traffic lights. He (Mau, not the car) is bright and eager, and shows up for class at the ungodly hour of 7:30 a.m., perhaps in an unconscious wish to beat the gatekeeper, who happens to be our revered Director of the Institute, no less.

But there is something not-so-typical about Mau: He is a Claretian Missionary, and in a couple of days, he will be ordained a priest. He already knows his mission-assignment, and is even now intensively preparing for it. At first glance, an assignment to the seminary or formation house seems not at all that exciting. So far the height of martyrdom for him was to be dragged out of bed in the dead of night to bring a sick brother to the hospital, and the depth of pastoral care was to mediate the occasional, inevitable conflict among the college boys. Cheap thrills. But assignment to seminary or formation work is mission to a territory of a different kind. For what could be more daunting, more fraught with peril, than the human heart?

Mentoring another in the difficult, humbling experience of sorting out his/her desires and God's desires is an awesome task. In this age when the priesthood and religious life have suffered some very grievous, scandal-inflicted blows, when young people have seemingly unlimited options, and when commitment has become so ephemeral it is rendered meaningless, it is downright crazy to want to be a priest, or a religious brother or sister.

So how do you account for this bunch of crazy men and women, and the young folk who seem to have caught their contagion? It is very difficult to explain, and space does not permit a thorough discussion here. But let me present two points:

First, the priest or religious brother or sister has experienced what Lonergan calls "an otherworldly falling in love," the discovery of the heart's deepest longing that cannot be assuaged by anyone or anything less than the God who first loved him or her. While this is a basic human desire, for the priest or religious the only possible, adequate response to choose is a radical "selling all." Kahlil Gibran illumines this beautifully: "When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep…" The priest and religious have fallen in love, and henceforth that love will shape the contours of his or her heart. It is a joyous, fearsome journey, but always shot through with the wondrous mystery of God's faithfulness.

Secondly, this love is not a self-centered, "me-and-God" exclusivity. Rather, it is a call to a particular stance and lifestyle that is marked, if it is to be faithful, by a deepening self-donation and generosity. Mission is the fruit of staying in love with God. By their silence and their words, their prayer and work, priests and religious witness to the truth that, beyond all human power and love, there exists (to paraphrase the words of the Psalms) a rock-solid place named God.

Of course, too often we've encountered the eternally grumpy Father or the perpetually cold Sister. But these "frozen delights" only prove that the priesthood or religious life is not a shelter for the broken-hearted, nor is it an escape from the terror of loneliness, the messiness of intimacy or the craziness of the world. On the other hand, we are not talking about perfection here, either. (Besides, there is no such thing). God calls real live specimens of this universally imperfect human race, but He is too compassionate to call anyone who does not have the capacity to live it with real freedom and joy.

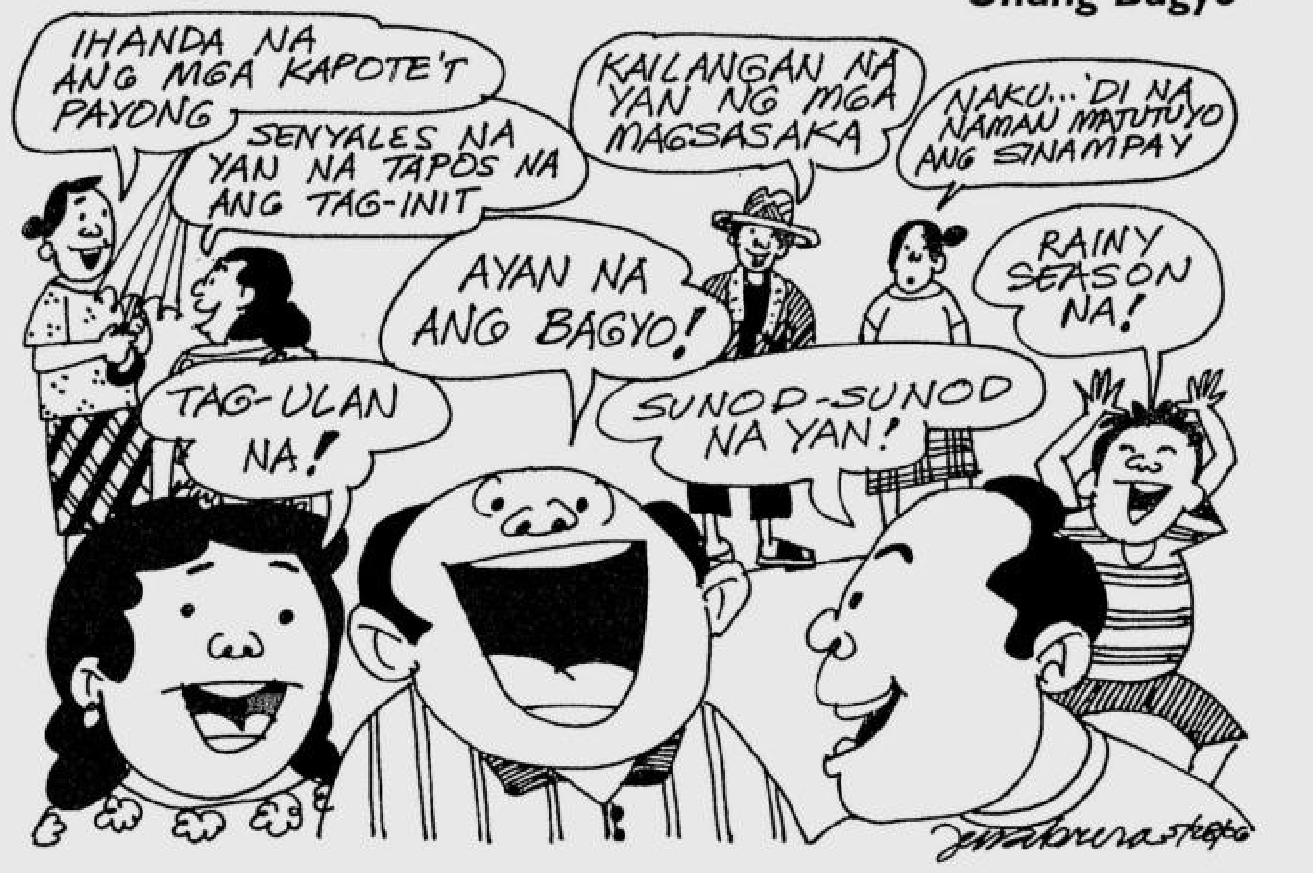
Mau is aware of all of this, of course. When I asked him how he was, now that ordination day is so near, he turned thoughtful, quiet. With palpable awe in his voice, he recounted the incident during his final oral exams with Fr. Catalino Arevalo, SJ. At the end of the exams, Fr. Arevalo asked him if he believed that a priest is the presence of Christ Himself. When he said yes, the distinguished Jesuit theologian commanded: "Live it!"

The priest who roots his very identity upon this truth, and the religious who publicly professes his/her vows, nonetheless witness to a more basic invitation to all of us who call ourselves "Christian." Whatever our state or circumstance in life, in both visible and hidden ways we are to be the presence of Jesus, living witnesses of God's lasting grace. Q

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Unang Bagyo


IHANDA NA ANG MGA KAPOTE'T PAYONG
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KAILANGAN NA YAN NG MGA MAGSASAKA
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AYAN NA ANG BAGYO!
RAINY SEASON NA!
TAG-ULAN NA!
SUNOD-SUNOD NA YAN!
jessabrera 2006

Celebration

...from page 4

quality time with their children and grandchildren as they play and paint together amid the bright colors of the surroundings. Children, on the other hand, will have something they can display to their loved ones with beaming pride.

Interested participants can also submit their accomplished masterpieces as an entry to the Paint-Your-Own-Guyito contest. The winner will receive fabulous prizes from the INQUIRER and will also be featured in July issue of the Junior INQUIRER. The competition is open to both the young and the young-at-heart. As quoted by INQUIRER Strategic Communications Marketing Manager Connie Kalagayan, "Creativity has no boundaries; it is ageless." People of all ages are encouraged to express their artistic sides and join in the contest.

A Work of Art

A main feature of Guyito's Knowledge Trip is an exhibit of 20 fiberglass Guyito sculptures, each with its own unique design. Created by INQUIRER chief cartoonist Jess Abrera, Guyito was brought to three-dimensional life by National Artist Juan Sajid Imao and painted by some of the country's leading artists to the theme "The Power of Knowing." Lending their artistic genius to this monumental project were Ernesto Patricio, Buds Convocar, Malang, Lydia Velasco, Bencab, Wilfredo Offemaria Jr., Jef Samonte, Kidlat Tahimik, Caña, Jack Salud, Bing Siochi, Robel Obemio, Stevesantos, Bin Samonte, Anton Balao, Tres Roman, Soler, the late Romeo Forbes, Rex Tatlonghari, and Fernando Sena. The masterpieces will then be donated to the public high schools that ranked among the top 20 in the Regional Finals of the INQUIRER's Quiz Bee Competition, bringing Guyito all over the Philippines. Guyito's Knowledge Trip will be the last chance for many to see the wide-eyed grin of Balao's flying interpretation of Guyito, the whimsical colors of Bin Samonte's harlequinesque design, and the intense patriotism of Malang's Guyito, among many other breathtaking pieces.

Come Join the Fun

The fun doesn't stop at Market! Market! Interested readers can still drop by Guyito's Knowledge Trip at the SM Mall of Asia on May 30 to June 1, and at Robinson's Pioneer on June 9 to 11. Everyone is welcome as registration is completely free.

In appreciation of the overwhelmingly warm reception at Market! Market!, the INQUIRER has decided to make the Paint-Your-Own-Guyito activity even more available. Guests need only present just three Guyito Knowledge Trip coupons to avail of a mini-Guyito and painting kit. These special coupons can be found in the Knowledge Trip ad in every issue of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER. Mini-Guyitos and painting kits may also be purchased at the now-lower price of only P50. Each mini-Guyito still comes with a free INQUIRER gift. The proceeds from the event will be used to help fund a series of INQUIRER seminars and workshops, in which INQUIRER reporters, editors, and columnists will discuss topics on journalism and give pointers on effective writing, editing, and layouting. According to INQUIRER President and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, through this and other such projects, the INQUIRER hopes to "inspire the young to value reading and use it as a tool to attaining their dreams."

Join the INQUIRER as it celebrates "The Power of Knowing" in grand fashion, and enjoy all the great fun at Guyito's Knowledge Trip! ●

Giving

...from page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Capt. Dioso stands in the middle of the muck in Barangay Guinsaugon

The PAF Public Information Office in Villamor Air Base showed the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine hundreds of photos—mostly grim reminders of death and destruction—that he took at ground zero, complete with a detailed annotation for each photograph.

How does he feel looking at those photos now, considering the magnitude of the task to find survivors and retrieve bodies in 3.2 million square meters of search area?

"In a way, I feel proud of our team's accomplishment, but at the same time I see in disasters my own mortality. You realize how short life can be," Dioso says.

But after four years of being in the frontline of rescue missions, he has realized that one ultimately learns to set aside one's own fears and uncertainties. "You have to put things in perspective. If there is a disaster, your role as the rescuer is to be the bastion of strength," Dioso says. "You don't show signs of weakness."

Sense of humor

Having an infectious sense of humor has kept him sane in a job where every task is literally a life and death situation. "The Filipino's sense of humor was one of the first things that foreign rescuers noticed," he observes. Laughter, he adds, will always be the Filipinos' unique way of coping with tragedy.

He and his team also had a "Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing" or CISD every night after a long day of work in Guinsaugon, Dioso said. "It's nothing formal, just a session with Dr. Emperador," he says laughing, referring to the brandy. But the nightly sessions were essential to helping his team unwind and let go the heavy feeling of seeing dead, broken bodies every single day.

Dioso was appointed to the PAF 505th 2nd SAR team after completing a 45-day search and rescue training in the United States in 2002. It was a completely different mission for the former attack pilot, who had been assigned to the 15th Strike Wing of the Air Force for eight years.

It was a good time for a change, he says now. He also thought the SAR training would be something straight out of the "Baywatch" TV series, where shapely babes like Pamela Anderson added to the excitement, Dioso adds, snickering.

The training turned out to be a computer-based course with some practical application.

The PAF search and rescue team based in Mactan Air Base in Cebu City was not only dispatched to missions, but also trained civilian volunteers and conducted safety training and workshops for teenagers, Dioso says.

The contact with civilians has made the job a lot more fulfilling. "You can feel the civilians' fear when they see soldiers in uniform. They worry that there'll be fighting. But when you're a soldier with the search and rescue team, they know you are there to help and do good for them. They actually smile at you."

But it was during his days as an attack pilot in 1997 that he experienced his first ever rescue mission. He was then a first lieutenant in combat against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in South Cotabato.

While conducting an air strike, the Army Rangers below contacted him and his co-pilot, informing them that four seriously wounded soldiers needed to be evacuated. Under enemy fire, Dioso landed the MG and airlifted the four soldiers to safety. One of them eventually succumbed to his wounds, Dioso recalls.

For their bravery, he and his co-pilot were awarded the Gold Cross by the military leadership two years after the incident.

Defying gravity

The eldest in a brood of five, Dioso said he had always wanted to become a pilot and fly. "Flying is something that not anyone can just do. You defy gravity, you work with physics. That's very challenging," he says.

Dioso graduated with a degree in aircraft technology from an aeronautical college in Parañaque, and eventually signed up with the PAF Flying School in 1991. "I thought it was easy. *Hindi pala* (It wasn't)!"

He graduated from the PAF Flying School two-and-a-half years later and devoted himself to being a soldier.

He also married his girlfriend, Evangeline, a nurse at the Philippine Navy. The couple has a son, Jeremiah, an incoming sixth grader this school year.

The couple shares a love for adventure, from rock climbing to cave explorations. Dioso is also a certified diver, while his wife used to be in the frontlines of disaster situations. "But she got miffed during the Guinsaugon tragedy because she didn't get to watch my TV interviews," he says with amusement.

Dioso says he would allow his only child to pursue his own dreams, even if it entails the dangers that he himself go through in his work as a soldier. In fact, even in such matters as religion, he says he won't meddle with his son's choices. Dioso is Protestant and his wife, Anglican. They had Jeremiah baptized as a Catholic.

"He even stayed up late waiting for the announcement of the new Pope last year. 'Because I'm Catholic, Dad!' he told me," Dioso recalls with a laugh.

Aside from giving his son choices, this father said that leadership by example is another value he wants to impart to his only child. Dioso recalls how, in Guinsaugon, he picked up a shovel and dug into the mud himself. "If I want my men to climb a wall, I should be the one to do it first," he explains.

Office groove

Dioso, now the chief of the management engineering branch of the PAF, based at the Air Force headquarters in Villamor Air Base, is once again trying to get into the groove of office work.

"Very soon I'll have gray hair, sinewy fingers, and God help me, glasses! That is, if I don't do anything about it. Do you know where I can wallclimb?" Dioso pleads in jest.

He'd definitely miss rescue work, the latest being a task given him shortly before he was recalled to headquarters for his new assignment. Dioso led a three-man team in trying to rescue two teenage boys who fell into a 60-feet irrigation dam in Carcar, Cebu.

But the boys had already drowned. Their bodies were later retrieved by the second Air Force team that dove into the dam, recounts Dioso, his voice tinged with sadness and regret.

In times like these, he says, one of the things that raises his spirit is the note his team received from one of the young volunteers from the University of the Philippines and Ateneo who went to Guinsaugon.

"You are an inspiration to us. You have shown in your actions how important a single life is," the student wrote.

"It uplifts the soul whenever you read something like this," Dioso says. "Your work is appreciated and you know you've touched someone's life." Q

'Wellness re-discovered' at the 2nd Pana Cooking Class

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers gathered, once again, at the Julius Maggie Kitchen, at the Ground Floor of the Nestlé Building at Rockwell Center, Makati last May 13, to mark the 2nd Pana Cooking Class. They were treated to a day of re-discovering the ideals of "Wellness" through the enjoyment of simple pleasures which include relaxing, being with family and friends, and cooking scrumptious and healthy dishes.

The function kicked-off with an enthralling talk on "Wellness" by Zenaida F. Velasco - a licensed nutritionist, dietician, and psychologist. She is the secretary of the Nutritionists - Dietician Association of the Philippines, one of the pools of experts of the National Nutrition Council, and author of The ABC's of Nutrition. During her presentation, she pointed out that "Wellness" does not only pertain to the absence of disease but more importantly, it pertains to being physically, mentally, and socially well. She said, "There are two things that we need to remember when we talk of wellness: good nutrition and physical activity. One without the other will not be successful."

She also disclosed some interesting facts about milk and coffee. Milk, for instance, should not only be taken during your growing years but throughout your entire life. This is so because calcium - the vital mineral contained in milk, does not only help you build and maintain strong bones and teeth but is also essential in the following: regulation of your heart's rhythm, blood clotting, and the transmission of nerve impulses throughout your body.

Coffee, on the other hand, when taken in moderation (up to 6 cups per day) brings about many health benefits to our system. Backed by scientific research, coffee was found to contain hundreds of compounds that may help cure some of the most prevalent diseases of our time. And one of the most exciting discoveries is the significant presence of "antioxidants" in coffee beans. These "antioxidants" are proven to help reduce the chances of heart diseases and cancer. They are also known to protect against "oxidative stress" by "mopping-up" damaging free radicals that are implicated in cancer, heart disease, degenerative brain disorders, and aging.

The 30-minute talk on "Wellness" was then followed by a cooking demonstration that perfectly complemented the theme of the event. Guest chef Annalisa Margarita Villaflor Mariano - a chef instructor at the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila, head chef of C2 Classic Cuisine, and R&D chef of Cravings' Group of Companies, entertained the audience with an appetizing lineup of refreshing salads and gourmet sandwiches.

Her menu included three kinds of gourmet sandwiches: 1) "The Best Philly Cheesesteak In Town" - a scrumptious sandwich stuffed with tender slices of meat, sautéed sweet onions, bell pepper slices, and mushrooms, oozing with creamy cheese sauce - satisfying to the last bite!, 2) "You'll Love Vegetables Grilled Sandwich" - a light grilled veggie and cheese sandwich richly flavored with basil pesto, and 3) "Crunchy Monte Cristo Sandwich" - baked crunchy sandwich filled with sliced sweet ham, tasty fried chicken strips, and melted cheddar cheese topped with special coleslaw.

To complement the gourmet sandwiches, chef Annali also gave some recipes and helpful tips on how to create refreshing salads with delectable dressings such as the "Fuss Free Caesar-like Salad Dressing", "Tropical Mango Dressing", and "Sour Cream - Blue Cheese Dressing".

After the cooking demonstration, all attendees had the chance to sample the sandwiches and salads prepared by the guest chef. They were also given loot bags filled with Nestlé products such as Nestlé Coco Evap, Nestlé Corn Flakes, Nido Fruitmilk, and packs of the magic ingredient that was used throughout the entire cooking demonstration - Maggie Magic Sarap seasoning mix.

'Smart Buddy Hot Summer Samahan''

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

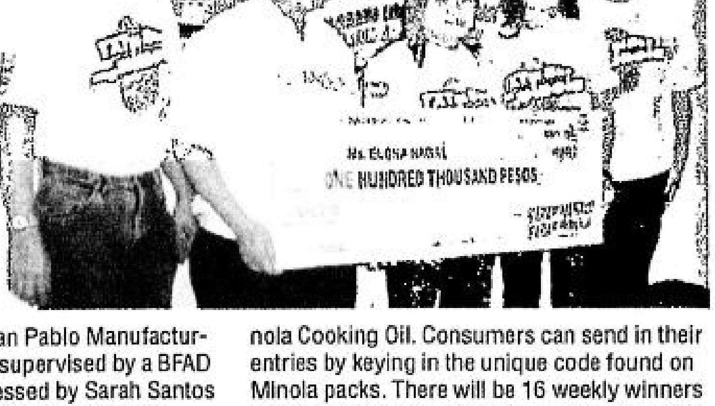
SHOWN are (from left): JC Parker; Loyd Manaloto, senior product manager, Smart Buddy; Eric Martel, mall manager, Harrison Plaza; Ronald Flores, OIC - Manila Tourism and Cultural Affairs; Billy P. Racho, general manager, NCR sales; Allya Parks and Epy Quizon during the ribbon cutting of Smart Buddy Summer Samahan Manila.

PHOTO shows former Batangas Governor Tony Leviste, (center) Bb. Pilipinas 2nd runner up 2006 Jeanne Bello, Guido Zaballero, department head prepaid activation group Smart, Bb. Pilipinas World 2004 Karla Bautista, Bb. Pilipinas World 2006 Anna Maris Igpit, Buen Garce and Gwen Garci during the opening of 'Smart Buddy Hot Summer Samahan'. It is a series of event especially designed by Smart Buddy to celebrate the barkadahan spirit, at Matabungkay Beach in Kalatagan, Batangas.

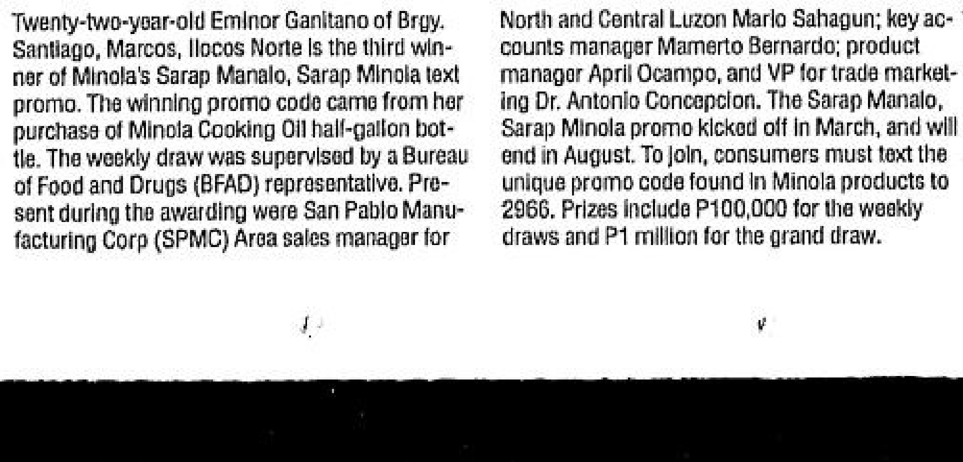
TBWA\ SMP DOMINATES THE CREATIVE GUILD AWARDS

TBWA\ Santiago Mangada Puno went home with two Golds, two Silvers, three Bronzes and a Craftsmanship Award from the Creative Guild Awards night. TBWA\ has been dominating the Guild Awards for the past three years. The Golds were awarded to the agency for TV Campaign of the Year (KFC Crunch Series) and Print Campaign of the Year (Gatsby Print Series). The two Silvers were TV and Radio Diwa Awards for Hands on Manila (I See Gold) and the Eyebank Foundation (Seen 1). Bronzes were given to Boysen TV (Home Sweet Home), Gatsby Print (Brian) and another Diwa for Eyebank Foundation TV (Beautiful Eyes). TBWA\ was also the sole recipient of a Craftsmanship Award for Print: Best in Illustration for Gatsby (Paolo). This latest victory marks another milestone for the team that holds the Agency of the Year title for the second straight year. The Creative Guild's annual awards show recognizes the most creative among the Ads of the Month churned out by various agencies. At the same time, it also lauds the best in public service ads with the Diwa Awards. The Guild is in association of creative directors from different agencies. Now on its 22nd year, the organization remains committed to raising the level of creativity in the local advertising industry. Photo shows the award winning team.

5TH WINNER OF P100,000 IN MINOLA PROMO



A resident of Country Homes in Cabantian, Davao City won P100,000 in the fifth weekly draw of Minola's Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola text promo. Elona Nagal's winning number came from a purchase of the takal-tingi pack. The winning number combination was picked by Dr. Tony V. Concepcion, April Ocampo and George Banzali of San Pablo Manufacturing Corp. The draw was supervised by a BFAD representative and witnessed by Sarah Santos from Buy N' Text Corp. The Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola is an on-going text promo of Minola Cooking Oil. Consumers can send in their entries by keying in the unique code found on Minola packs. There will be 16 weekly winners of P100,000 each and a grand draw winner of P1 million. Promo runs until Aug. 8.



PURCHASE OF MINOLA LEADS TO P100,000 WIN IN PROMO

Twenty-two-year-old Eminor Ganitano of Brgy. Santiago, Marcos, Ilocos Norte is the third winner of Minola's Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola text promo. The winning promo code came from her purchase of Minola Cooking Oil half-gallon bottle. The weekly draw was supervised by a Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) representative. Present during the awarding were San Pablo Manufacturing Corp (SPMC) Area sales manager for North and Central Luzon Mario Sahagun; key accounts manager Mamerto Bernardo; product manager April Ocampo, and VP for trade marketing Dr. Antonio Concepcion. The Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola promo kicked off in March, and will end in August. To join, consumers must text the unique promo code found in Minola products to 2966. Prizes include P100,000 for the weekly draws and P1 million for the grand draw.

Two Serendra launches urban re-greening efforts

TWO SERENDRA, A PROJECT OF Community Innovations, launched their re-greening efforts last April 25 - a joint endeavor between the developer and University of the Philippine's-Los Baños College of Forestry.

Held at the Serendra Sales Pavilion in Fort Bonifacio, the event commenced with the intent of announcing the developer's expressed concern for the diminishing quality of biodiversity in urban areas and their plans to re-green the urban landscape.

"Community Innovations (CI) understands that urbanization comes with great environmental responsibility. And this is why Two Serendra is designed as an architectural achievement that enriches nature." Loy Umali, vice president of CI states.

Their first step as joint advocates of nature and wildlife was to encourage appreciation for nature via "tree nurturing." The CII team alongside Ramon Razal, dean of UPLB's College of Forestry unveiled special edition tree-nurturing pots designed by famed clay artist Lanelle Abueva, the daughter of National Artist for Sculpture, Napoleon Abueva. Recipients of this specially crafted clay pots can nurture a tree within until such time that it is ready to be transplanted in its natural habitat with the aid of UPLB. In doing so, future generations are ensured with lush forests and a healthier environment. Two Serendra also plans to create a Manila based Forestry Museum located at the development, featuring different species of trees and has, in addition, made a seed donation in support of UPLB's environmental education program.

Two Serendra offers an unparalleled lifestyle experience wherein vestiges of modernity and commercialization are embedded within a utopian landscape of greens that thrive on the pursuit of letting cities experience the beauty of nature. The responsibility and privilege of regreening the urban landscape will be shared by residents of Two Serendra, allowing them to take active steps to guarantee that their families and children will have the best that life has to offer.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

For inquiries, call them at 888-0000, e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Sales Pavilion located along the 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, daily, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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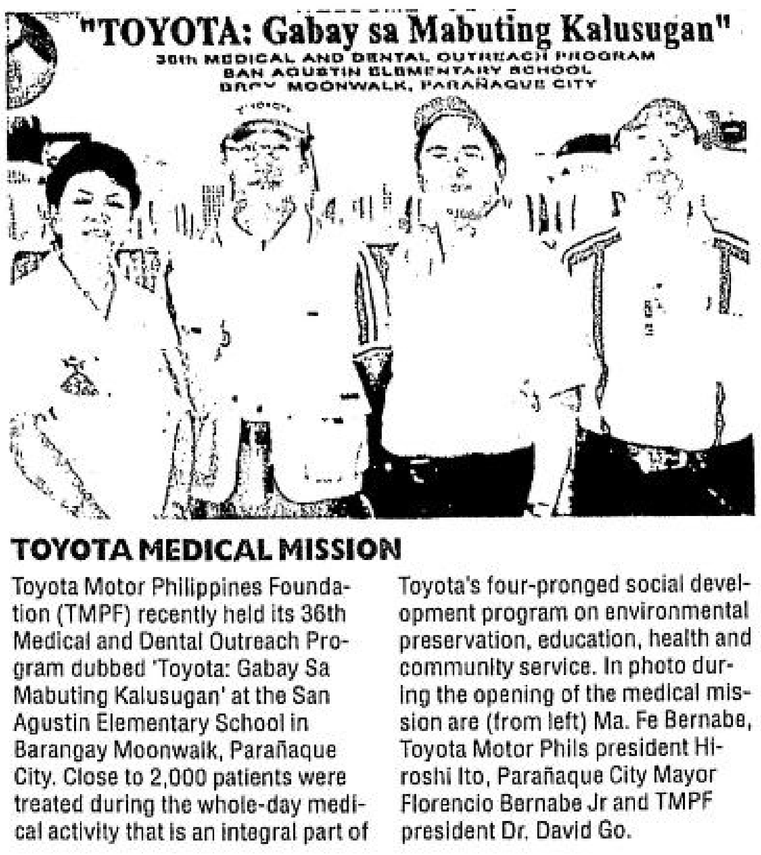
sumer

BPI WINS AWARD THREE YEARS IN A ROW

Once again, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is the recipient of two Trusted Brands awards from Reader's Digest. For three years running, BPI is the awardee of the prestigious Trusted Brands for the Bank Category. BPI also received the new Trusted Brands Award Investment Funds Category. The Trusted Brands Award is based on an annual consumer research project conducted by Reader's Digest in Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. Accepting the awards from a Reader's Digest regional official are (from left) BPI SVPs Jojo Ocampo, Jess Razon, Nita Claravall, and VP Mario Miranda.



"TOYOTA: Gabay sa Mabuting Kalusugan"
36th MEDICAL AND DENTAL OUTREACH PROGRAM
SAN AGUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BRGY MOONWALK, PARAÑAQUE CITY

TOYOTA MEDICAL MISSION

Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation (TMPF) recently held its 36th Medical and Dental Outreach Program dubbed 'Toyota: Gabay Sa Mabuting Kalusugan' at the San Agustin Elementary School in Barangay Moonwalk, Parañaque City. Close to 2,000 patients were treated during the whole-day medical activity that is an integral part of Toyota's four-pronged social development program on environmental preservation, education, health and community service. In photo during the opening of the medical mission are (from left) Ma. Fe Bernabe, Toyota Motor Phils president Hiroshi Ito, Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr and TMPF president Dr. David Go.

NESTLÉ CABUYAO DONATES COMPUTERS

As part of its continuing support to quality education, the Nestlé factory in Cabuyao, Laguna donated computer units to the Pamantasan ng Cabuyao. Photo shows school's VP for administration Dr. Orena Oroceo (center) during the turnover.